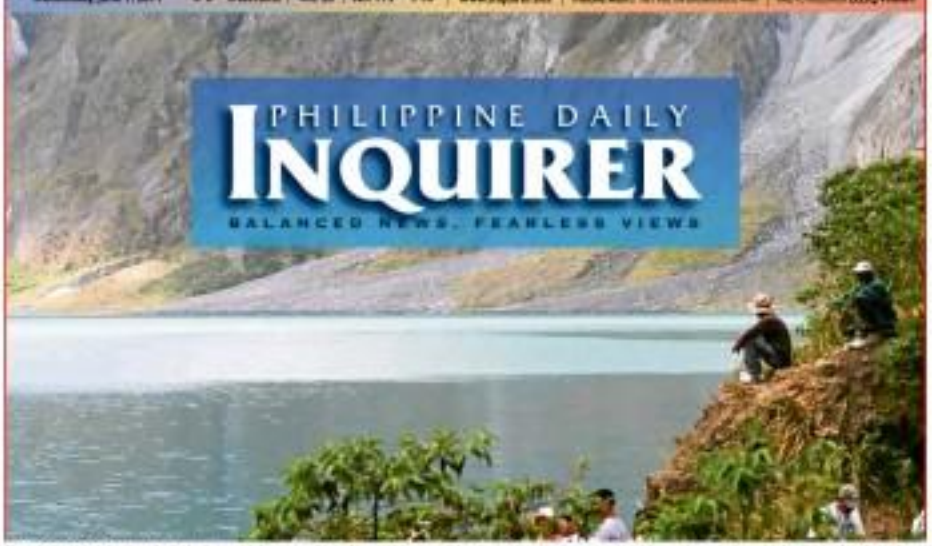
Wednesday, June 1, 2011 | Inquirer | Vol. 35 | No. 173 | P18 | www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



PINATUBO WATCH: Calm now after its deadly eruptions 20 years ago, Mount Pinatubo attracts nature watchers to its crater lake. Tourism officials, however, warn that heavy rains may trigger the collapse of its crater wall. (See story on Page A15.)

NBP 'sleep out' canceled

DOJ to provide guidelines on 'living out'

By Marlon Ramos and Cynthia D. Balana

IT'S BACK to their cells for the night even for VIPs of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said she would order officials of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) to prevent nightly stop the "sleep out" privilege enjoyed by VIP prisoners like former Immigration boss Antonio Leviste, whose luxury sojourn

the national penitentiary last month triggered the controversy that led to the crackdown.

De Lima made the announcement a day after Ernesto Diokno quit his post as BuCor director in a result of the controversy. (See related story on Page A8.)

She said she would immediately issue a circular banning the grant of the "sleep out" privilege and providing guidelines on the "living out" privilege, and that inmates had obviously abused such special practices.

"I think the 'sleep out' privilege ... should not be adopted at all," De Lima told reporters. "I may consider the 'living out' [part] legal, but it should be written in the BuCor operating manual."

"Living out" prisoners refer to those who are allowed to leave their cells by day. They are obliged to stay within the NBP compound and report back to their custodial guards in the afternoon.

Before his May 18 arrest outside the building he owns in

Resignation clears Diokno for new gov't post | A2

Hottest of biodiversity hot spots found in PH

By Kristine L. Alave

THANKS to unmitigated and destructive human activities have changed the Philippines in a biodiversity crisis that could take decades to reverse, environment officials and justice

The Philippines is one of the world's most biodiverse places, but its marine and wildlife riches are under threat because of intensive mammals activities, according to Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"The Philippines is one of the most threatened in the world. The rate of extinction of species is 5,000 times the natural rate because of mammals activities," Ignacio told the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Champions of Biodiversity awards.

"It is a crisis. We are the hottest of the hot spots," he said.

Rodrigo Parreño, executive director of the Asean Center for Biodiversity, said the entire Southeast Asia region was in

NOTTEST, A10

Metro health center cited for strategy vs smoking

By Kristine Felizas Mangunay

CONGRATULOLO: Newly confirmed Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario receives enthusiastic welcome from his grandchildren after his appointment was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. (See story on Page A4.)

Illegal wildlife traders target endemic geckos

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY ... The info has been making a lot of noise in the wildlife trade and conservationists don't like what they're hearing.

Environment officials here are looking into reports that foreigners have been offering lucky coins to buy native geckos, locally known as tuko, a nocturnal lizard now feared to

that loss or loss for the local

Some buyers are reportedly willing to pay P100,000 or more each for geckos that weigh at least 500 grams, according to Salvador Belaven, head of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office.

Among the proposed buyers are Koreans and Chinese nationals, the latter said to be in-

ILLEGAL, A10

Malacañang: No stand yet on divorce bill

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT'S NOT that Malacañang doesn't want to ruffle Church feathers again, but it just doesn't have a position yet on a controversial divorce bill being

vetoed in Congress.

And as President Aquino's deputy spokesperson, Abigail Valte, yesterday steered clear on talk about legalizing divorce in the country, which, like the reproductive health bill, is expected to be a touchy issue for the Catholic Church.

Just three months after he took office, the President thumbed down proposals to review a divorce law.

"Divorce is a no-no," Ms. Aquino then said, but the 52-year-old bachelor added that he favored legal separation that would allow couples to remarry.

At Sunday's press briefing,

MALACAÑANG, A4

Cook hopes to win ₱355-M lotto jackpot

By Miko Morales

SINCE HIS daughter was born seven years ago, William Tolosa has been playing lotto in all variations of the lotto, believing that Lady Luck—always favoring a

kids—might finally send a smile.

"No one knows for certain what fate had in store for you," the 39-year-old cook and owner of a Makati City food stall told the Inquirer yesterday.

Persistent bettor like Tolosa

are the people who keep the sales of lottery tickets booming, particularly Bonz for the 6/55 Grand Lotto, according to Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) General Manager

COOK, A4

TUTUKAN ANG
PINAKA-BIG TIME GAME
SA TV PAPUNTA IL ONLINE MULA SA SMART!
BIG SHOT JACKPOT
₱120 MILLION
More than ₱50M worth in prizes!
MAGPAPAYAMAN NG TOT FORTIS!
For more info, text TST ON to 5850
SMART

ACROSS
Estrella, former agrarian chief, dies; 93 / A16

NEWS
Globe draws solons' ire at hearing / A2

SPORTS
Nadal forges q'final duel vs old tormentor / A19

WORLD
Germany to shut down all nuclear plants / A23

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2 2 7*

1 AM	9	9
4 AM	4	4
7 AM	8	3

6/49 LOTTO

1 AM	0	0
4 AM	1	9
7 AM	9	1

6 DIGIT 4 PM

2 9 4 6 0 4

6/45 LUZ-VIS-MIN

7 8 13 19 31 42

P15,705,606.60

SUPER LOTTO 6/49

14 26 27 36 44 48

P16,000,000.00

Globe draws solons' ire at hearing

By Christian V. Esguerra and Paolo G. Montecillo

GLOBE Telecoms, the company most affected by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.-Digitel merger, yesterday found itself on the defensive during the Senate investigation into the deal.

Senators asked if Globe, earned by the Ayala Group, would have questioned the merger if it had been successful in its own efforts to purchase Digitel Telecommunications Phil., it failed in its bid that Globe executives reluctantly admitted at a hearing yesterday of the committee on public services.

Globe apparently attempted to buy Digitel before PLDT came into the picture.

PLDT successfully concluded last month a P74-billion share-swap deal with the Gokongwei family, the owners of Digitel, that gave it a 51.93-percent controlling stake in the merger.

PLDT is the operator of mobile brands Smart, Talk N Text and Red Mobile, while Digitel operates the Sun Cellular mobile subscriber.

Responding to a question from Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Pauline Eustole, Globe chief for regulatory affairs, said there were rumblings that they "did not participate".

"In other words, you were unserved," said Enrile.

Lance Gokongwei, Digitel director and president of Digitel's parent company JG Summit, said Digitel was approached by Globe "with the objective of acquiring the company, perhaps in the same way as we did now but failed."

"There was a discussion that could possibly lead to a buyout or merger of the two companies to exchange for consideration," he told the senators.

Sen. Joker Arroyo later told Globe executives "Had the transaction been consummated, you would not be here. Globe would not be here complaining. But because it is PLDT and Digitel, Globe is complaining. Is there a fear?"

"You cannot expect Congress to equalize things when the solution is competition in the market," he added.

Rodolfo Salalima, Globe's external legal counsel, stressed that his company was not questioning the legality of the contract between PLDT and Digitel, which he said Globe was leaving to the government bodies concerned to determine.

Endanger free competition

What Globe wanted to point out was that with the PLDT-Digitel merger, a monopoly that was already big to begin with was "getting bigger and may endanger free competition in the country," Salalima said.

"We agree that sometimes consolidation becomes relatively bigger than the other because of market forces. There are natural factors which may be considered to one becoming too big. But when such bigness becomes too much, there is a need precisely to put in some conditions or regulations," he said.

Globe has claimed that the PLDT-Digitel deal would create a monopoly in the local telecom industry, leading to a slower pace of innovation and higher rates for consumers.

Digitel's Sun Cellular brand is known for its affordable services that have driven down the profit margins of both PLDT and Globe.

Arroyo said the committee would look into the main issue of whether the merger would benefit consumers.

Unlimited calls to go on

PLDT director Ray Espinosa assured consumers the merger would not stop the unlimited calls and text messaging services currently available through Digitel.

He said Digitel's Sun Cellular label would eventually become the brand for the merged companies' "mid" services.

PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan yesterday bit out at Globe, accusing the Ayala group of monopolistic business practices.

"PLDT is not allowed to install phone services inside malls and real estate developments formed by the Ayala group), despite the claims from their tenants," Pangilinan said, noting that Globe was allowed to offer telecom services in those areas.

The Ayala group, through its unit Land unit, is one of the country's largest property developers. It operates shopping malls in Metro Manila, Cebu and Panay.

Pangilinan said the Ayala group also made a bid to buy Philippine Seven Services, the sister utility to Metro Manila's west zone, which was eventually bought by the Pangilinan-led Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and DM Consunji Inc.

"If [the Ayala group] won the contract for Muntinlupa, then they would be a true monopoly in water services for the Mega Manila area," Pangilinan told reporters. The Ayala group owns Manila Water Co., the concessionaire for Metro Manila's east zone.

Aquino orders probe

President Aquino last week said he had ordered the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to review the Digitel deal to ensure that the merger would not lead to an "undue advantage" for PLDT.

Pangilinan said that with the merger, PLDT would help in the long-term survival of Sun Cellular's low-priced services which some industry watchers have tagged as "unsustainable."

"We have publicly made a commitment not only to keep the line limited, but we will enhance the service by connecting it to our wider infrastructure network," he said.

He said that Sun's current landline subscriber base of around 500,000 in the Central Luzon area would benefit from the telecommunications they would be connecting to the PLDT network. This would lead to lower rates extending to more people.

"What we are asking is that the government should protect the consumers, not our rival," Pangilinan said.

In a statement statement, Gokongwei said being part of PLDT's wider network would benefit Sun's 11 million users.

"This is the greatest benefit of this transaction, and consumer satisfaction from a bigger network is really what our franchise is set for," Gokongwei said.

Korina now says Jojo's name but still slams him

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(SEE UPDATE of the Vice President (OVP) has expressed appreciation that ABS-CBN never reader Korina Sanchez finally mentioned Jejomar Binay by name.

It said it hoped that Sanchez—the wife of former governor Manuel "Nitoy" Sanchez, whom Binay defeated in the 2010 vice presidential race—would "maintain incorporating Vice President Binay's name, not just his surname" in her future reports.

Reporting on "TV Patrol" on Monday night, Sanchez named "Vice President Binay" in her spiel on the new OVP headquarters at the Coconut Palace on Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Jerry Esdguelo, Binay's spokesperson and media officer, yesterday told the Inquirer that the OVP "sincerely appreciates Mrs. Korina' gesture of professionalism."

Lacking factual basis

But Esdguelo added: "The 'TV Patrol' story on the Coconut Palace not only lacks factual basis. It was also slanted to favor the opinions of a Mar Roxas partisan in the last election who apparently did not know what he's talking about."

According to the report, Binay will have his office over the former site of "his multi-million peso palace," which will "go against President Aquino's instruction of austerity in government appointees."

TV Patrol quoted Binay as saying that erecting a portion of the Philippine National Bank (PNB) complex in Pasay City was necessary because not all the OVP employees could be accommodated at the Coconut Palace.

But Esdguelo pointed out that "even if we maximize two offices, the new will still be lower than the P410,000 [monthly] rent" at the PNB complex.

"The Coconut Palace is considered a showcase of Philippine architecture, but it's already crumbling. It's also poorly maintained. The work being done is a renovation. The ceiling was scrubbed [and] the ground-floor left wing designated as offices in the 1970s," he said.

Binay's complaint

Esdguelo also said Binay and his family would not live at the Coconut Palace.

He said the building would be used for "incoming foreign dignitaries" and for "educational tours"—fears that were "excluded from the ABS-CBN report."

On March 2, Binay's office filed a complaint with the Regional Trial Court in Quezon City against Sanchez asking why Sanchez continued the Vice President's name on several occasions on "TV Patrol."

The OVP also wrote ABS-CBN asking "to be clarified" on whether it was the editorial policy of its news desk to omit Binay's name "in the lead or in the anchor's speech" on issues involving him.

Contacted for comment, Bong Osorio of the ABS-CBN Corporate Communications Department said: "There is no policy of omission on our news organization. The complaint raised by Ms. Jane Salgado has been referred to the network anchorwoman."

Congratulations

to the

Polytechnic University of the Philippines

under the stewardship of

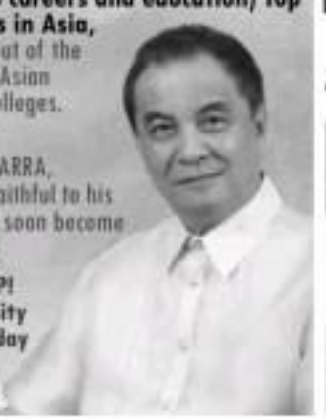
President Dante G. Guevarra

on its inclusion in the QS (the world's leading network for top careers and education) Top 200 Universities in Asia, ranking 201+ out of the more than 12,500 Asian universities and colleges.

PUP President, DR. DANTE G. GUEVARRA, has always been faithful to his word that PUP will soon become a *Total University!*

Mabuhay ang PUP! A leading university in the country today

-LGUs, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



4th Executive Institute Course

LEADERSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY in the WORKPLACE

June 14-15, 2011

The two-day course is designed to help HR Managers and leaders in the organization in promoting and adopting leadership and spirituality in the workplace. The challenge for the modern-day leader who wishes to embrace spirituality in the workplace is to attain "coherence between the individual and the organization"

Dr. Eduardo A. Morato, Jr.

Prof. Cecilia B. Manikan

For reservations, please contact:

(02) 435-3140 or (02) 927-9365

sharon.base.mail@gmail.com

2nd Flr. Cinderella Bldg., 835 EDSA, QC

P-Noy's Brunei trip will be hectic

By Tarra Quismundo

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—President Aquino will arrive today on a royal welcome in this Muslim kingdom where the color of royalty is Aquino yellow.

Ready in the sultanate's capital have been fixed with the Philippine and Brunei flags in anticipation of Mr. Aquino's arrival at 13:30 a.m. for a two-day visit packed with official talks, meetings with local businessmen, a visit with the Filipino community, and even a evening by a local children.

The President is expected to land straight to the Istana Nurul Iman, the royal palace, to meet with Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah. Mr. Aquino and Bolkiah will then hold trade talks and sign agreements on tourism, agriculture, sports and shipping, according to the schedule released by Malacañang.

The Bruneian sultan has visited the Philippines sometimes early in January to be feted at Dominion banquet and fresh mangoes, according to Malacañang.

Mr. Aquino will be meeting with Filipino residents of Brunei, estimated to number between 16,000 and 20,000, and consisting of engineers, teachers, IT professionals and service workers. The oil-rich Bruneian British colony is one of the wealthiest nations in the world, with a population of 400,000, or just two percent of the population of Manila.

Brunei-based Filipinos who spoke to the Inquirer yesterday said they were hoping to get a chance to raise their concerns with Mr. Aquino, citing labor problems with their Brunei employers.

"Filipinos here have a lot of problems. There are cases of Filipinos who are not paid properly or work without days off, and without being given a proper meal," said Edel Bartholomew, president of the Filipino Association in Brunei.

Edgardo Atang, a Filipino roadside who works in the Brunei government's Roads Development Center, said he would like to ask Mr. Aquino if the Philippine government has any social services planned for retired OFWs who would return home after toiling for years overseas.

"I would like to know if the government has a platform for OFWs who, after working for years overseas and contributing dollars to the economy, would like to return home," Atang said.

Mr. Aquino is also set to inaugurate a new dormitory for the Philippines and then proceed to Brunei's main port to visit the Muara Container Terminal, a facility run by the Filipino firm, International Container Terminal Services Inc.

He will then make a quick stop at the Muara branch of the Filipino-owned giant, JollibeeBrunei.

The Bruneian royals will then host Mr. Aquino and his delegation at a state banquet in the evening.

On Thursday, Mr. Aquino will hold business meetings with Bruneian companies before visiting famous landmarks, including the Royal Regalia and the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque, Brunei's most most recognizable monuments.

The President and his delegation are expected to leave Brunei on Thursday afternoon, arriving in Manila at 5 p.m.

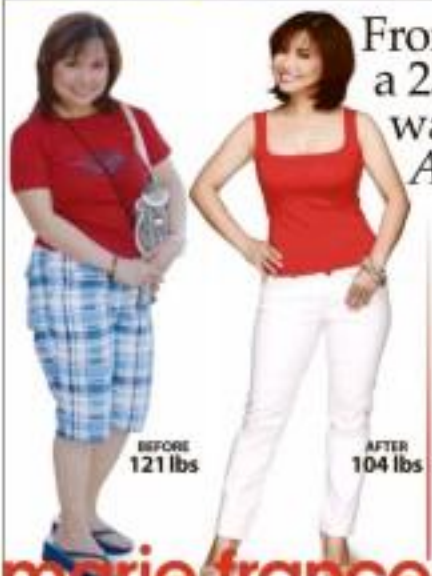
SEE & COMPARE!
The Best
Starex

are from HANCARS.
Built in TV-DVD, Monitor, Bluetooth, USB, SD
Dedicated 7" GPS, Back-up Camera, Leather

(0918) 951-5680 - (0919) 951-5168
388-0839
724-0142
398-8008
HANCARS INC.

ROBINSONS MALLS
Summer Tote Bag Giveaway
Carry the fun all summer round.
Shop and be fab for free!
Every P1,000 single receipt purchase from participating Robinsons malls retail outlets gives you a chance to have a fashionable summer tote bag for free.
Promo runs from April 25 to June 5, 2011

See store for details

From 32 to a 25-inch waistline. Amazing!
- Sandy Santamaria


With her trim figure and 25-inch waistline, you'd never guess Sandy Santamaria to be turning 30 this year. "I don't feel like I'm turning 30. Age is something you can't change, but there are things you can do to change the way you look! They say 'Sandymon is staying young!' signpost' For me, 'Sandymon is living young!' because there are many treatments and professional people at Marie France to help you. The older you get, the more conscious you have to be of your health and body," she says.
Before Sandy sought help from Marie France, weight-loss had been impossible to achieve. Her metabolism slowed down when she hit 40, as it does for many people. "I played badminton twice a week and I hardly ate rice, but my weight didn't budge!" she was beginning to lose hope and even considered surgical procedures. "I would see my reflection in full-length mirrors, my tele-tele is! I was so disgusted with the way I looked already. I wanted to look good!" That was when she decided to try Marie France. In less than two months of treatments, she went from 121 to 104 lbs and her waistline slimmed down from 32 to 25 inches! "I immediately lost 15 lbs! I couldn't wear my usual pair of jeans anymore, so I tried fitting into my sister's pants which is size 7 years old! And they fit! Now, I just want to maintain my figure. My body is in its best shape ever, thanks to Marie France and their treatments!"
Sandy owes it all to Marie France. "You get a total makeover at Marie France. They have doctors who consult with you frequently, consultants who monitor your weight-loss, and therapists who focus on your problem areas. They know my body so well! " To keep off the unwanted fats, she does FMS. "FMS is my secret's blanket! It burns 2,000 calories which I cannot do on my own! I used my weight. I'm really confident with the results I got from it." Like most women, she also dealt with saddle bags, tummy fats and bibi. "I don't have time for physical activities because I'm always working in front of my laptop. Saddle bags and tummy fats were my problem areas. After my EDH and UltraShape treatments, I saw visible results in my thighs! My saddle bags, cellulite, and tummy fats are all gone. my skin is smoother and firmer. The treatments really break down, decongest, and eliminate fats."
She now maintains her weight at 104 lbs. "I feel lighter! Everything's easier. Although my legs are short, I can walk fast. You're not sluggish." She's feeling confident, youthful, and more attractive. She's no longer afraid to wear curve-hugging clothes - weight-loss has given her life a positive spin. "If there are any reunions or impromptu parties, first! Where? Go! You're confident. You can face anyone, you can attend any event any time because you're always ready! When you're fit, any dress suits you. any dress suits you. Now, aside to! Marie France is my partner to always looking my best!"
Call Marie France for a FREE body fat analysis, 894-Body (2639). For Cebu, call (032) 233-7637. For Dumaguete, call (035) 961-2981.
marie france

Let Taal oxygen levels rise, fishers told

BAUAN, Batangas (PNA)—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) yesterday advised fish cage owners to wait for the oxygen levels in Taal Lake to normalize before resuming operations.

A fishkill caused last an estimated 800 metric tons of mostly milkfish on Friday and affected the towns of Talisay, San Nicolas, Agoncillo, Laurel and Balete, as well as Tanauan City.

Authorities have blamed the onset of the rainy season, particularly the sudden drop in the lake water's oxygen levels for the fishkill.

Rosario del Mundo, fisheries officer for BFAR, said fish cage operators need to wait until the dissolved oxygen (DO) level has increased to more than six parts per million (ppm).

The said water tests conducted on May 16, prior to the fishkill, showed the DO was 9.09 ppm but the oxygen levels were measured at 1.4 ppm after the fishkill.

"On May 29, the level was 2.7 ppm," the official said.

She said cleaning of the affected fish cages in the lake was still ongoing as of yesterday.

In Talisay, Mayor Zenaida Mendoza said another 200 metric tons of fish were killed in Barangay Sampaloc on Monday.

"Night now, we are in the process of disposing the newly killed fish in the river," she said.

Gracie Sagarinoda, provincial information officer, cited overcrowding of the fish as one of the contributing factors for the fishkill.

A fishkill was also reported on Sunday in Anilao and Balibago towns in Bauan.

"Fishkills usually starts with milky water forming in the upper section of the Cabuyao Channel. I have been observing this phenomenon for so long so I can remember. Milky white water, about a meter deep, forms before every fishkill. I have notified with Talisaynon and remembers and nobody can explain what causes it," said Flonante Garcia, chair of Anilao's fishery and agriculture management council.

The fishkill resulted in an estimated loss of about 75 tons of bangus in Balibago and Anilao.

But Dr. Wilfly Rosario, head of the National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center in Dupacan, Cilia said the milky water could be due to a substance released by seaweeds that die because of a decrease in water salinity and other factors. *Mairah Eyha Lesaba, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Rolando Jolejole, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

CA denies BF plea to reopen

THE COURT of Appeals has denied the petition of Banco Filipino Savings & Mortgage Bank (BF) to be allowed to reopen after it was ordered closed by the central bank.

In a resolution, the appellate court said it found no merit in the request of the padlocked thrift bank.

"After having considered and deliberated on the petition and the comments of the respondents, as well as the respective documents and representations stated therein, we do not find sufficient cause to grant it," the appeals court said in a resolution penned by Associate Justice Agnes Reyes-Carpio.

The court said "the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to put BF under receivership was in order, noting that it was the role of the BSP to protect the public. It said regulatory action against a bank suffering from financial woes was necessary to maintain public confidence in the banking system.

"Unless adequate and determined efforts are taken by the government against distressed and mismanaged banks, public faith in the banking system is certain to deteriorate to the prejudice of the national economy itself, not to mention the losses suffered by the bank depositors, creditors and stockholders, who will deserve the protection of the government," the appeals court said.

The court said the BSP was doing its job as a regulator when it ordered BF closed.

Last March, the BSP placed BF under the receivership of the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) after it monitored the poor financial condition of BF. The BSP said the thrift bank had become insolvent, noting that its liabilities exceeded its assets by P8.4 billion.

The BSP also noted BF had been losing an average of P5 billion a year since 2007.

The BSP accused BF of engaging in unsound banking practices. It said the thrift bank "had been using much of the deposits of the public to extend loans to the bank's owners and officers.

The BSP likened the practices of BF to a "bank scheme," saying the interest it had been using to pay depositors was coming primarily from new deposits rather than income from investments.

Government data showed BF had 177,032 depositors with total deposits of P3.1 billion.

After its closure, BF filed an appeal, saying the BSP exercised arbitrariness in closing it. The thrift bank denied claims that it was insolvent. *Michelle V. Ramos*

Del Rosario, others get CA nod

THE CONGRESSIONAL Commission on Appointments yesterday gave its nod to Foreign Secretary Alberto del Rosario after throwing out the "improper opposition" of a Cebuano businessman.

The body approved in plenary the appointments of Del Rosario, 21 ambassadors and 39 foreign officers, and Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes.

Businessman Chong Hing Sheng, also Joseph Sheng, appeared as an opposition to Del Rosario's appointment, but was thrown out by the CA committee on foreign affairs on a motion from chair Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Santiago was annoyed that Sheng raised a syndicated estafa case he filed against Del Rosario which is pending in the Department of Justice.

"It's not a function of the commission to litigate a case. Plus this commission is not clear at all what disqualification is involved in this complaint pending in the DOJ," she said.

Since Del Rosario is prominent personnel and the DOJ has not ruled on the matter, Santiago dismissed Sheng's complaint.

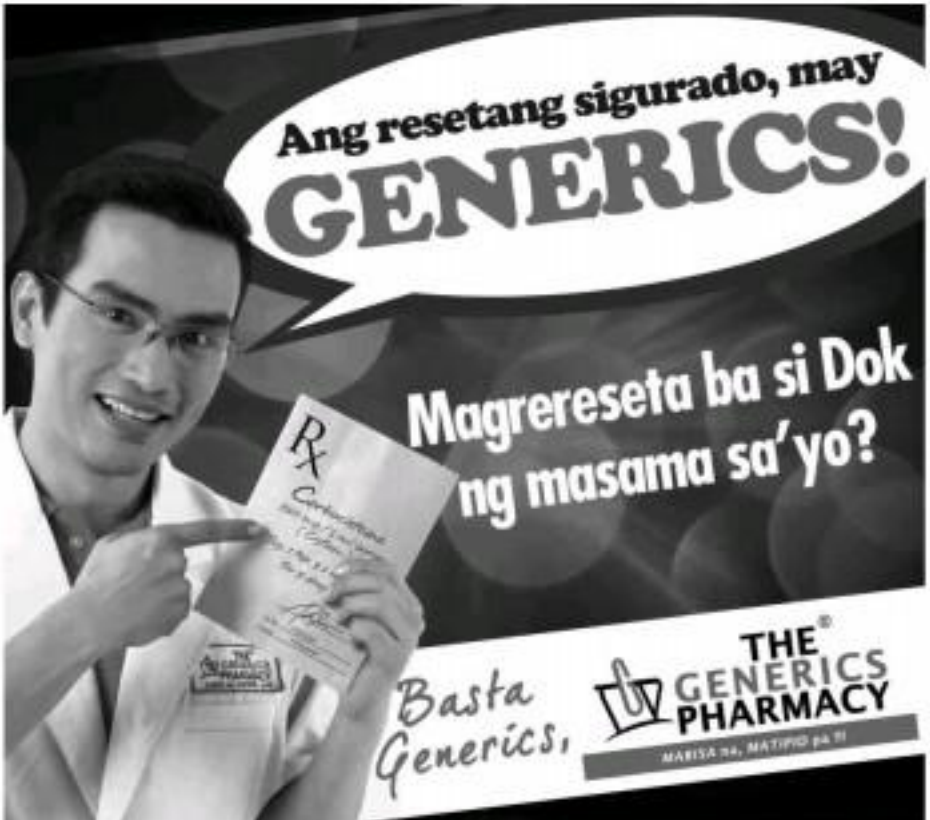
"That's do that again. That is unscrupulous. Youre insulting us here. You come here and you can't explain what his fault is. Ah! its all in order and ready to travel. Please get this opposition out of the premises," she said.

In his affidavit, Sheng of United Oriental Metals Inc. alleged that the officers and directors of Pilipinas Development Corp. of the Philippines Bank had deprived him into taking out a loan from the bank through misrepresentation and with the distinct purpose of taking over his corporation.

Del Rosario was a director of PDCP Bank.

The 21 confirmed ambassadors were Belen Anota, Victoria Bancolar, Virginia Benavidez, Enrique Manalo, Rayzul Mercado, Lourdes Morales, Cristina Ortega, George Penaz, Marylin Abadilla, Constancio D.G. Cabahug, Leslie Gatan, Leslie Baja, Eleanor Jauncier, Basilio Jimenez, Jose Eduardo Malaya III, Maynardo Montenegro, Mrs. Cicelie Santiabal, Maria Rosario Aguinaldo, Alejandro Mamaril, Ricardo Tigo and Ramonchito Murillo.

Except for Murillo, all are career ambassadors. *TJ Burgonio*



Ampatuan nixes jail inspection

By Nancy Carvajal

DAVAO, Ampatuan Jr., who is scheduled to be arraigned today, has invoked his constitutional rights in seeking to stop the relatives of the Maguindanao massacre victims from inspecting his jail cell at Camp Bagong Diwa amid allegations of special treatment.

In a motion before presiding Judge Jocelyn Solis Reyes, Ampatuan's lawyer Sigfrid Fortun said Ampatuan Jr. enjoyed the basic individual rights of any Filipino under the constitutionally guaranteed presumption of innocence while his case is being heard.

The private complainants, led by Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu, are demanding to inspect Ampatuan Jr.'s cell amid allegations that he and other jailed members of his family were enjoying special treatment while in detention.

Fortun, who represents several of the accused Ampatuan family members, said the allegations by Chief Supt. Oscar M. Diel, the head of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), that the Ampatuans abuse the complainants to inspect their detention cells was a violation of his clients' privacy.

"My clients [are invoking] their right to privacy and security," he said.

Fortun said his clients "protected not to be cajoled at and made a media spectacle."

In his motion, Fortun asked the court to rule whether the detention cells of the accused Ampatuans should be subjected to public viewing.

Fortun also noted that the BJMP director himself had inspected the living quarters of the detainees and "found no special or extraordinary benefits given them."

Ampatuans forced me to have sex, charges woman

COTABATO CITY—A Maguindanao woman has accused over a regional television network run members of the Ampatuan clan—including former Energy Undersecretary Zaynamora Ampatuan—of forcing her to have sex with eight suspects in the Maguindanao massacre.

The woman, who was identified only as "Jane," claimed that on May 10 Ampatuan and his brother, Mayor Unsay Valeck Ampatuan of Rajah Buayan town, were in the vicinity of Bulod, also in Datu Piang.

She did not say how they met but she alleged that the two Ampatuans coerced her into having sex with the mayor-to-be, who had been supposedly hiding in her village. The suspects were unidentified.

Sought for comment, the former energy undersecretary said he did not react to the accusation because "I initially thought it was a joke."

Ampatuan is now barangay chair of Sapakan, also in Rajah Buayan.

On the same day, May 26, that she made the allegation on TV, Jane filed an affidavit-complaint with the police.

Bulod village chair Ibrahim Engandal said it must be an act since he heard of Jane complaining about sexual abuse.

He said that on May 10, her parents filed a rape complaint against Mike Upan, believed to be Jane's boyfriend, before a revolutionary court of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front under Datu Abdulraof Tundak.

Engandal said he recommended Jane's parents for appealing barangay authority.

Support for the Ampatuan brothers has been flooding their Facebook accounts and text messages have been circulating in the city expressing disbelief at the accusation.

Inquirer Mindanao

Cook hopes to win ₱355-M lotto jackpot

From page A1

Jose Ferdinand Rojas II

Rojas expects sales of tickets for tonight's Grand Lotto draw to "be much bigger" than usual, with the jackpot likely hitting P355 million, compared with the pool of P326 million in the last draw.

"From our experience, sales of [Grand Lotto] tickets get more robust when the jackpot prize reaches the P1-[billion] mark," he said.

The tall, chubby Tolosa, whose food stall is located near the Makati Central Bus station, regularly places his bet at a lotto outlet near this market in Barangay Singkamas.

A sorry reminder

Tolosa said he developed the habit of keeping all his losing tickets on top of a cabinet "just for fun"—until recently when, pushing to the nagging of his wife, he threw away the small pieces of orange-colored paper.

"She said they would just remind me how much I have spent, how much I've lost on my bets," he said in Filipino.

Tolosa and all other bettors face awesome odds when they play the Grand Lotto.

Experts estimate the odds of winning the jackpot at one in 29 million—quite formidable when one considers that the odds of being struck by lightning are one in 3 million and of dying from a snake bite are one in 3.5 million.

The odds of drawing a royal flush in poker (10, Jack, Queen, King and Ace of the same suit) are said to be one in about 700,000.

Tolosa has six sets of numbers that his religiously places bets on in every lotto draw.

The results are the same with every draw—the numbers he chooses rarely get picked and the winning combination comes always far from his reach.

Biggest pot

In the last Grand Lotto draw on Monday, the sales of tickets had surpassed P12b million by the time betting stalls closed at 8:30 p.m. for the 52nd consecutive draw. There was no jackpot winner.

Around 27 bettors came close, picking three of the 06-13-23-32-44-49 combination. They won P158,300 each.

Last year, it took 86 straight draws before someone—a 65-year-old Filipino electronics technician in Olongapo City—stunned Philippine lotto's biggest ever jackpot amounting to P72.7 million.

Rojas knows how tough it is to join all six winning numbers.

In the case of the Filipino domestic workers he watched the winning combination through the "lucky pick" method, wherein the computer randomly assigns six numbers to a ticket.

Among the six combinations that Tolosa regularly bets on is a set of numbers based, among others, on the birth dates and ages of the members of his family.

The other combinations are based on numbers connected with his mother and siblings.

According to Tolosa, the combination related to his wife and children only changes when one of them gets a year older.

BIOMETRIC Time Recorders
Starting Promotion
₱ 7,800
BD-1100 FR-6 BR30
IP-90
INFINITE

Malacañang: No stand yet on divorce bill

From page A1

Valte was asked whether Mr. Aquino had changed his position.

She said the Palace had no stand on the divorce bill "as of the moment" because the spokesperson had not been able to see the President.

"It's not that we're being cautious because we don't want to collide with the Church, but because it's really a matter, a rule of church for us and even in your [interview], that if someone asks an unsatisfying that has not yet been discussed with the President, we will not provide that because we are not yet discussed it with him," Valte said.

The House committee on revision of laws has scheduled a hearing today on a bill seeking to legalize divorce. The move followed a vote in a referendum in Roman Catholic Malta approving divorce in the tiny Mediterranean archipelago. The Philippines is the only other country where divorce is banned.

Not Vegas-style

Gabriela Representatives Liza Maza and Emmi de Jesus, authors of the bill, told reporters yesterday that their proposal did not seek to make absolute divorce "Las Vegas-style."

Under their bill, couples would undergo a process and the court would decide on the merits of each case, custody of children and division of properties.

"If it's already life threatening, like if the wife is battered, if there is sexual infidelity, then divorce will give both a chance to live their lives separately and get married again," Maza said.

Current laws allow the annulment of marriage, an expensive process only the wealthy can afford and is granted on grounds such as psychological incapacity. Legal separation also is allowed, but only from bed and board and partners are banned from remarrying.

And not like cats

Bishop Emeritus Teodoro Bacani yesterday said the Philippines must not follow the global trend, citing hamsterlings, rodents whose migratory behavior lead them to follow each other until they fall off cliffs to drown in the ocean.

"If the world is like that, let's not follow because we might be put in danger," Bacani said in a forum hosted by the Catholic Media Network.

He noted that in the United States, which had the highest rate of divorce, one in two marriages ends pandered to separate.

"If there's a divorce law, couples facing some minor problems may choose not to work on their marriage anymore," Senate Majority Leader Tito Sotto told the forum.

Sotto said those pushing for the legalization of divorce were the same supporters of the reproductive health bill. He said the measure was to weaken the Church.

Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada said few Pandilo Lacson yesterday said the Philippines was not ready for divorce.

Senate president Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Juber Estoya said it was not a good idea to discuss divorce while legislators remained divided on the reproductive health bill.

Same-sex marriage?

Lacson noted reservations that a divorce law might lead to even more explosive proposals. "This is the opposition of many people, that the issue might evolve into same-sex marriage and, later, legalizing abortion."

Estrada has a pending bill, which, he said, could serve as a "compromise" by penalizing having had a divorce law. Senate Bill No. 598 specifies cases of "psychological incapacity," which is a ground for the nullification of marriage.

Conditions in the Estrada bill include violent behavior or grossly abusive conduct against the spouse or their common child or children; abandonment, promised and continuous refusal to support the family; habitual drunkenness or habitual addiction to the use of illegal drugs; sexual infidelity and homosexuality; and extremely low intelligence or mental deficiency.

With reports from Cynthia D. Rebong, Jocelyn R. Uy and Christian V. Esguerra

Metro health center cited for strategy vs smoking

From page A1

Metro Manila, told the forum.

Only five municipalities from all over the world were recipients of assistance under the $250-million grant put up by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's foundation in 2008.

The Bloomberg initiative aims to reduce tobacco use in low- and middle-income countries by supporting municipal efforts to implement effective strategies.

That CHD Metro Manila, a facility under the Department of Health, was able to get a part of the grant was no mean feat.

"The grant was used to implement anti-smoking strategies found in my project proposal to take local government units," Garcia said.

Efforts recognized

Yesterday, the center received one of the much-coveted Red Orchid Awards, a recognition given by the health department to government offices, state hospitals and local government units that have been consistent in promoting a "100-percent tobacco-Free" environment.

The award is also in response to the international community's call for country implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which aims to protect people from exposure to tobacco smoke.

The Philippines is one of 172 countries that ratified the convention.

"We are aimed to know that our efforts are being recognized," Dr. Ena Asuncion, head of CHD-Metro Manila, said.

Holistic approach

Garcia's noncommunicable disease prevention and control program is a holistic approach in the smoking problem that involves nine model local government units. These are Valenzuela, Manila, Makati, Quezon City, Taguig, Navotas, Marikina, Caloocan and Muntinlupa.

Among the various activities of CHD-Metro Manila is under the program for tobacco control are the installation of billboards for graphic health warnings, arresting up of no-smoking signs in strategic areas, such as restrooms and the maintenance of a database for smokers and non-smokers.

"Initiatives like these are possible if we are able to raise the civic consciousness of people as well," Asuncion said.

Now, CHD-Metro Manila is focusing on establishing smoking cessation facilities in the nine local government units.

"We are hopeful that this will be a success," Asuncion said.

Everybody's fight

The CHD-Metro Manila project focuses on six strategic areas—capacity building, policy advocacy, effective legislation, media and communication, strategic partnership and strategic research, monitoring and evaluation.

"The uniqueness of the proposal is that it recognizes the importance of the participation of all units concerned, such as the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board and the Philippine National Police (PNP), among others," Asuncion said.

Fighting the smoking menace would therefore not only be confined to health workers. Local government units, for example, provide the much-needed assistance to add teeth to the programs. The PNP is in charge of law enforcement.

Red Orchid awardees

The other recipients of the Red Orchid Awards in ceremonies held yesterday at Crowne Plaza in Ortig City were:

- CHD Muntinlupa, CHD Laguna Valley, CHD-Eastern Visayas, CHD-Mimaropa, CHD Cordillera Autonomous Region and CHD-Ilocos for health centers; Manila City Doctors City, Bataan City Balanga City and Legaspi City.
- Ambos in Virgen Memorial, Calamba in Bamboo, Pampanga in Southern Luzon, Alabang in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac in Mariano Gomez, Tuguegao in South Cotabato, Isabel in Bilaran, Dapaa del Norte in Nueva Vizcaya, Bontoc in Guimaras, Tenaria in Agusan del Sur, Solano in Nueva Vizcaya, Cabuyag in Quezon.
- Cotabato Regional and Medical Center, Capitol ng Palawan, Jose Horra Memorial Regional Hospital, Tagaytay Tuberculosis and Rehabilitation Center, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Western Visayas Sanitarium, Mariano Marcos Memorial Medical Center and Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Hospital (government hospitals).

The use of a red orchid in the campaign against smoking started when world-renowned photographer Adrito Garcia created a symbol for the World No Tobacco Day launched by the World Health Organization in 1988.

Garcia chose an orchid on an old lady—the flower admiring to life, and the asbestos for death. Since then, the orchid—in a red color to signify determination—has remained a symbol of a tobacco-free world.

RoyalCaribbean INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC DEALS
HONG KONG CRUISES
onboard
Legend of the Seas

• 5N SHANGHAI TO HONG KONG CRUISE
SHANGHAI, CHINA • JEJU ISLAND, SOUTH KOREA • CRUISING • HONG KONG, CHINA
SAILING DATE: JUNE 21, 2011
Oceanview Cabin $540/cabin
Balcony Cabin $760/cabin

• 5N INDO-CHINA EXPLORER CRUISE
HONG KONG, CHINA • DANANG, CHINA • HUE/DANANG, CHINA • BAY PORT), VIETNAM • HANOI (HALONG BAY), VIETNAM • CRUISING • HONG KONG, CHINA
SAILING DATE: JUNE 26, 2011
OTHER DATES: JULY 5, 14, 26 • OCT. 23, 26 • NOV. 2, 7
Interior Cabin $ 590/person
Oceanview Cabin $ 730/person
Verandah Cabin $1,000/person
3rd & 4th Person $ 180/person

• 5N GEMS OF ASIA CRUISE
HONG KONG, CHINA • KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN • TAICHUNG, TAIWAN • TAIPEI (KEELUNG), TAIWAN • CRUISING • HONG KONG, CHINA
SAILING DATE: JULY 01, 2011
Oceanview Cabin $ 980/cabin
Verandah Cabin $1,200/cabin

• 7N HONG KONG TO TIANJIN CRUISE
HONG KONG, CHINA • CRUISING • NAHA, OKINAWA, JAPAN • CRUISING • KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN • BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA • CRUISING • TIANJIN, CHINA
SAILING DATE: JULY 30, 2011
Interior Cabin $370/person
Oceanview Cabin $670/person
Verandah Cabin $920/person

• 5N SHANGHAI TO HONG KONG CRUISE
SHANGHAI (BAOSHAN), CHINA • CRUISING • NAHA, OKINAWA, JAPAN • NORTHERN JAPAN • CRUISING • HONGKONG, CHINA
SAILING DATE: OCTOBER 08, 2011
Interior Cabin $270/person
Oceanview Cabin $410/person
Verandah Cabin $560/person
3rd & 4th Person $180/person

See your preferred travel agent or call:
ROYAL CARIBBEAN INT'L & CELEBRITY CRUISES
HOTLINES: 892-2781 to 83 • 894-3957
FAX NO. 892-2798 • E-MAIL: asiacruises@orpansair.com.ph

At BDO, partners also get great deals!

For homebuyers, BDO has always been a reliable partner offering great deals – choice of properties, attractive rates and flexible terms, as well. Not many realize that great deals are not only for the homebuyers but for the broker partners of BDO Home Loan, too. Thus, BDO, being a trailblazer in the industry, always finds exciting new benefits and programs for its accredited brokers.

Enjoy big cash incentives and exciting perks!

For a BDO broker, excellent performance in referring BDO Home Loan accounts has its rewards. The more loans you refer, the bigger the bonus! Apart from the basic commission which the brokers get each time they refer a home loan account, brokers who meet and exceed quarterly targets receive cash credits to their savings accounts. Plus, brokers who hurdle the annual target get as much as 6-digit cash incentives! These are awarded during special recognition ceremonies held in key cities nationwide.

Eager brokers trooped to the gathering held in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Batangas to witness the awarding and to listen to BDO Home Loan's better and improved Brokers Incentive Program for the year.

Brokers who hurdled the annual target of Home Loan - Retail are Dante Reyes, Pinky Tañedo, Beatrice Chua, Mark Anthony Carpio, Rowena de Guzman, Luis Soriano, Edgar Benedicto, Grace Gervacio, Veron Santos, Lourdes Saulo, Ariel Naragas, Marilyn Giron, Evelyn Fulgencio, Maedelyn Oliveros, Richard Uy, Alicia Yuhayan and Nellie Vergara.

While Dave Guerrero, Oscar Lungpad, Jocelyn Dungo, Jackson Lim Jr., Mary Grace Bontongan, Roseanne Jean Alfonso, Wilson Ramos, Evelyn Dinglasan and Philip Chua were the awardees of Home Loan - Wholesale.

Aside from cash incentives, top brokers also enjoy perks and receive special privileges throughout the year.

BDO Brokers Home Deals: A boost to a broker's sales!

After the success of its maiden run last year, Brokers Home Deals, now on its second year, was last held in March at SM North EDSA, SM Megamall and SM Mall of Asia.

At BDO Brokers Home Deals, brokers are given satellite offices where they can sell properties from their inventory, as well as acquire new ones through clients who wish to sell their properties through them. During the 7-day event, buyers get special rates and great deals from BDO Home Loan. To entice more prospective customers, an interior designer is available onsite during weekends for free consultation. Partner merchants are also there to complete the BDO Brokers Home Deals experience.

With that, brokers are more than excited preparing for the next Brokers Home Deals on **June 2 to 8 at SM Megamall Atrium A and SM North EDSA Event Center.**

Be an accredited BDO Partner now!

Beyond BDO Brokers Home Deals, BDO supports its brokers through new programs that will be continuously introduced throughout the year.

Be an accredited BDO Broker now. Visit **Brokers Home Deals on June 2 to 8 at SM Megamall Atrium A and SM North EDSA Event Center.**

Resignation clears Diokno for new gov't post

By Norman Bordadora

[illegible] Diokno's resignation from his post as director of the Bureau of Corrections has apparently put him in the clear.

A day after President Aquino hinted at the possibility of another government post for Diokno, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said a person's skills could not be limited to a specific area.

Valte also said the administrative proceedings that were recommended against Diokno and that could have led to his dismissal from the government were rendered moot by his resignation.

Asked if Diokno will enjoyed the President's trust as much that another appointment was possible, Valte said anything was "quite possible."

"We can't foreclose that level of confidence [in] ... perhaps we should leave it at that. My lips are zipped," she said, adding:

"But we'd like to think that a person is not confined to merely one [set of] skills, and competence cannot be boxed in one particular area."

Presumed innocence

In reply to the question of whether Ms. Aquino had yet to decide on Diokno's liability vis-à-vis the case of former Bataan gov. Leo Antonio Lavina's abandoned trip out of the New Bilibid Prison, Valte said the President was still reading the report of the fact-finding panel formed by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

"In [the President's] mind [on Monday], the recommendation is for administrative charges with ... dismissal as the sanction. So, if the person has already resigned, then his case would become moot and academic," Valte said.

She went on to say that a person should be presumed innocent "until proven guilty by a competent board or ... court."

Nothing categorical

De Lima herself has said that no criminal charges were recommended against Diokno.

Valte pointed out that during his briefing on the issue on Monday, the President did not say categorically that Diokno would be named to another post.

Ms. Aquino was asked if it was possible that Diokno would find himself in another government position, and he answered that if the latter had held on to his post amid the controversy, "the door would have been closed."

"But he didn't do it. So there is a possibility [of another appointment], but obviously not in a similar situation," Ms. Aquino said.

The President also praised Diokno, a former police officer, for having the propriety to quit. "Defiendelos is very important to us," he said.

He also admitted that he and Diokno were a long way back, with the latter standing by his family during the series of coup attempts against the administration of his mother, the late former President Corazon Aquino.

MEDIA ATTENTION Justice Secretary Leila de Lima is interviewed by members of the media at the Department of Justice office in Manila. NONOY ESPINA

NBP 'sleep out' privilege canceled

Story on page A2

Makati City homicide suspect Levinio and over 100 "sleep out" prisoners were allowed to spend the night in dorm-type barracks outside the NBP's minimum-security compound.

Diokno temporarily canceled the privilege after Levinio's arrest.

'Very selective' system

Pan officials acknowledged certain inmates the privileges because the Bucor manual does not provide the necessary guidelines, according to De Lima.

She said allowing inmates to roam the NBP reservation for some hours of the day could help BuCor officials address the overpopulation problem there.

"The panel actually recommended the review, revisit and revision of the Bucor manual. We can place there clear guidelines, standards and parameters," she said, referring to the fact-finding team that she had formed to investigate the Levinio "escape."

De Lima said that while the panel did not find clear evidence of corruption, certain BuCor officials might have benefited financially from the grant of special privileges to NBP prisoners.

"Because everything is arbitrary and there is no clear system, you cannot dispute that there could be corruption. The system was very selective," she said.

De Lima said she would also order the dismantling of the huts and other temporary quarters built by Levinio and other "sleep out" prisoners, including another convicted killer, Nadito Ong.

"Having trips from was actually a greater privilege. We will include that in our review and our additional recommendations," she said.

De Lima also clarified that the fact-finding panel had recommended the filing of administrative charges against five BuCor officials—not 20 as earlier reported—in connection with Levinio's case.

She added that the panel recommended preventive suspension for the five officials whom she referred to name.

She added that she could not go yet disclose the contents of the fact-finding panel's report because "the President said he wants a little more time to read it [in full]."

Malacañang meeting

De Lima also told reporters that President Aquino might convene a multiagency meeting to discuss the problems besetting the penal system.

She said that apart from the special treatment accorded some VIP prisoners, Ms. Aquino wanted to address the worsening congestion and drug problems in jails nationwide.

"I expect the President to talk to me [when he returns from his trip to Brunei this week] about ... the short-term plan with regard to the ... especially the jail congestion," De Lima said.

"You see, the most serious problems that [we should address] are congestion and drug problems," she said, adding that some jails were overpopulated by 500 percent.

De Lima said officials of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and its attached agencies, such as the BuCor, Parole and Probation Administration (PPA), and Board of Pardons and Parole, would be summoned to the meeting.

She said officials of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) would likewise be summoned.

The DILG has administrative supervision over the BJMP, which controls and manages all city and district jails nationwide.

Under the law, the provincial governments have control over provincial prison facilities.

De Lima said she also expected the President to seek her recommendations on who would replace Diokno.

She said PPA Administrator Manuel Co would continue to oversee NBP operations until the Presidential names Diokno's successor.

House hearing

At yesterday's hearing of the House committee on justice on at least three bills that seek to modernize and strengthen the Bucor, De Lima agreed that Diokno had preempted the President's decision on Levinio's case by resigning.

But she stressed that resignations had always been an option for Diokno, and that she herself had suggested this to him early on in order to spare the President from embarrassment.

The hearing was called to discuss the merits of House Bills Numbers 197, 712 and 4870. But the committee members present took the opportunity to ask De Lima about the results of the DOJ investigation.

De Lima begged off from telling at length about the fact-finding panel's findings in deference to the President after Rep. Abel Tupas Jr., the committee chair, asked for a copy of its report.

The NBP chief, Supt. Romeo Reyes, told the committee that Levinio was not the only one granted special privileges. He said 209 and 436 inmates were enjoying "sleep out" and "living out" privileges, respectively. Both these were canceled.

Reyes cited at least two incidents of Levinio leaving the NPH but said he did not know of the latter's privileges.

"I was the officer in charge of the Reception and Diagnostic Center. I have no knowledge of these [privileges]. We have a chain of command, as when I got assigned [there, the practice] was already going on," he said.

'Amazing'

Reyes said the "living out" privilege was in practice only in the minimum-security compound, where inmates were allowed to work within the NBP reservation as janitors, gardeners and mechanics.

But these inmates were required to come back at night, he said.

Asked why Levinio was allowed to stay to a feast in the NBP compound, Reyes said the former governor bought it from an inmate who had also been convicted.

The remark drew strong reactions from the committee members, who said that the feat should not have been allowed to be built, to the first place.

De Lima said the DOJ-led fact-finding panel had found it "amazing" that only Levinio could be held responsible for his unauthorized trip outside the prison that month.

"The 'living out' privilege, we saw fire with that. Maybe we can distinguish that to the manual as policy and practice, but there ought to be clear guidelines. But definitely, the 'sleep-out' privilege should be prohibited. No exception. Not acceptable," she said.

Hardened criminals

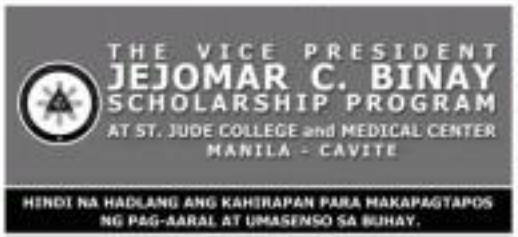
Mandaluyong City Rep. Rodolfo Biazon said the case involving Levinio was a manifestation of the many problems besetting the BuCor.

Biazon said that as one of the major pillars of the justice system, the BuCor should be able to reform prisoners.

"It is believed that prisoners who are admitted in its facilities, instead of getting reformed, [become] hardened criminals," he said.

He blamed this on the harsh living conditions in the prisons where survival was the name of the game.

"It is high time the BuCor and its facilities were transformed, in order that it may be able to carry out its function of reforming prisoners as productive members and assets of society once they get out of prison. Let us modernize the BuCor now," Biazon said.



Police go on alert for school opening

By DJ Yap

POLICE all over the country will be on full alert for the opening of classes next week when some 25-million students troop back to schools.

Philippine National Police Director General Raul M. Bacalzo placed the 130,000-strong force under full alert to keep students safe from pickpockets, snatchers, swindlers, drug pushers and hold-up men, among others.

Bacalzo ordered police units to increase visibility and weed out the Rafli Edroza (Dick) or Edrozi) 2011 operations.

In Metro Manila, the 16,000-strong National Capital Region Police Office will field personnel near schools on foot and mobile patrols.

The NCRPO led by Chief Supt. Nanette Medina will also establish police assistance desks with the goal of "zero crime incidence in all school and community areas."

Bacalzo said his instructions on Rafli Edroza 2011 would ensure the operational readiness of police units in responding to peace and order concerns, including threats and criminal elements that may take advantage of the situation.

The PNP chief also gave regional directors the discretionary authority to raise alert levels as they deem necessary to implement their respective security and public safety plans.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Agrimero Cruz said the police will be on the lookout for street criminals, such as pickpockets, snatchers, swindlers, robbers and drug traffickers.

Police patrols, in the meantime, will be on the lookout for drug pushers and street gangs that may infiltrate the ranks of students, Cruz said.

Local PNP units were instructed to coordinate closely with school administrators and officials of the Department of Education and the Commission of Higher Education to ensure the safety and security of students, the official said.

In coordination with other government agencies, the NCRPO will also be deploying more uniformed operatives to the vicinity of schools, particularly in the University Belt in Manila.

Similar security measures will be implemented in seaports, airports and land transport terminals to anticipate the heavy volume of incoming students from the provinces.

Corrections

IN THE MAY 26 ISSUE, an Entertainment story on Page C1 carried an erroneous headline. It should have read: "A trooper, a party pooper"—not "A trooper, a party pooper."

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a story on Page A4—"Wrong foot, unnecessary detour"—misstated the surname of the doctor who the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology had recommended to do a checkup on Andal Ampatuan Sr. The doctor is Dr. Glenn Sarmiento—not Reyes.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front page photo caption misstated that Typhoon "Chedeng" was "moving toward the eastern seaboard of northern Luzon." In the item, Chedeng was already heading toward Japan.

* * *

IN THE MAY 26 ISSUE, a photo caption on Page A8 misstated the position that Maguindanao "Tingting" Cotangco is serving for in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) electorate. Cotangco is running for ARMM vice governor—not governor.

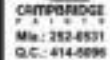
* * *

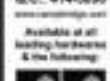
IN THE MAY 29 ISSUE, a News story on Page A23—"Hong Lou's name town to 'powerhouse' wedding star"—misstated that Georgina de Venecia is a former Pangasinan representative. De Venecia is the incumbent representative of the fourth district of Pangasinan.

* * *

Readers may send their corrections or comments to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, 9th Floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Mandaluyong Boundary, Makati City; fax No. 897-8783; e-mail address: inq.letters@gmail.com; or text 0917-8111999.

Complainants whose lack of business or community may be sent notice that their e-mail address: justice@inquirer.com.ph or fax No. 896-6214, 892-76 Publisher. My phone number is 897-1000 Local 2001





THE DAILY GOSPEL

JUNE 1 (Wednesday)
Psalter: Week 2
Ascension of the Lord
Ps 146:1-2, 13-15, 21, 34
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

1st Reading: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1

Then Paul stood up in the Areopagus hill and said, "Athenians citizens, I note that in every way you are very religious. "In I walked around looking at your shrines, I even discovered an altar with this inscription: To an unknown God. Now, what you worship as unknown, I intend to make known to you.

"God, who made the world and all that is in it, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands, being as he is Lord of heaven and earth. Nor does he worship depend on anything made by human hands, as if he were in need. Rather it is he who gives life and breath and everything to everyone. From one man he created the whole human race to live throughout all the earth, and he fixed the time and the boundaries of each nation. He wanted them to seek him by themselves, even if it were only by groping for him, reserved by finding him. Yet he is not far from any one of us. For 'in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your poets have said: 'For we are indeed God's offspring.' So since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think of divine by us something like a statue of gold or silver or stone, a product of human art and imagination.

"God has overlooked the times of such ignorance and he calls on all people to change their ways. He has already set a day on which he will judge the world with justice through a man he has appointed. And, as that all men believe it, he has given proof to this by raising this man from the dead."

Gospel: Jn 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. When he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into the whole truth.

"He has nothing to say of himself but he will speak of what he hears, and he will tell you of the things to come. He will take what is mine and make it known to you, in doing this, he will glorify me. All that the Father has is mine; because of this I have just told you, that the Spirit will take what is mine and make it known to you."

Reflection:

The Spirit will never contradict Jesus for he will not say anything of himself. But the Spirit could not be used as a weapon to subvert established teachings of the Church. How many times are we tempted to say the so-called Spirit led prophets who claim to be Magisterium by claiming that their inspiration is from the Holy Spirit. Our reading today reminds us that there is no division between the Trinity. The Father and the Son are one, and the Spirit does not do things only on his own accord. The Spirit of Jesus and the Father is a Spirit of unity. Anybody who stirs disunity cannot claim the Spirit.

Philippine Communications Headquarters, 4/F Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City, Philippines 1200, Mon-Fri 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Tel. 897-1000, 892-0131 to 40 Fax: 896-6214, 892-7611 to 20 Email: pr@inquirer.com.ph Website: http://www.inquirer.com.ph Philippine Information Agency, 3/F Executive Building Center, Malacañang Complex, San Miguel, Manila, Philippines Tel. 736-1981 to 89 Fax: 736-1981 Email: pia@pia.gov.ph Website: http://www.pia.gov.ph

Printed and distributed by Newspaper Direct
COPYRIGHT AND PROTECTED BY APPLICABLE

Illegal wildlife traders target geckos

From page A1

covered in geckos for their ADH research, Takemoto told the hearing on Monday.

Errol Alada Catembaco, vice president and managing director of the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., said geckos "collection" around to have gone unchecked not only in Negros, but in other provinces where the species still thrive.

'Clandestine buying'

Reports reaching his group indicated that the weight allowable cuts were being used either for gaming or medicinal purposes, Catembaco added.

"This is quite alarming because there are endemic geckos with conservation values," he added, citing alarming accounts of "clandestine buying" all over the country.

In interviews with the locals, several Negrenses who asked not to be identified advised to guarding the native gecko population for sale to foreigners.

A more encouraging evidence said he even "fattened" the lizards first to captivity.

But whether to send or release

SOLVE SLEEP APNEA PROBLEM!
www.fatmaxmed.com

areas, one need not look far to know a source of the growing international trafficking.

'Perfect take'

For example, information on which types of geckos are in demand...and how to sell them...is easily available on www.mbu.com.ph.

The website even lists down the characteristics of a "perfect take." To supposedly fetch a higher price, a gecko should spare red, orange or white spots on his skin, their feet splayed flat and shaped like a flower.

A marketable gecko should also weigh 400 grams or more, with a body length of at least 25 inches, the website said. It should look healthy...no severed body parts...and fed with food (mainly insects) found in their natural environments.

The gecko must also be active and fierce when one tries to hold it, the website added.

Geckos are also sold at mbu.com.ph, a popular buy-and-sell site.

And yet on paper, the penal hassle supposedly enjoy the full protection of the law.

Under the Wildlife Act of the Philippines, the collection of wildlife species such as the mbu requires a permit from the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), Catembaco said.

'Illegal'

Reached for comment in Manila, PAWB Director Theresa Mundita Lim maintained that poaching and selling geckos are "illegal activities."

But lacking couple data on the country's gecko population, the government could not ascertain as the common chameleon the species should be considered endangered or not, Lim said.

"We need to ensure first that its natural population will not be affected. Without that, it's legal to catch it," the PAWB chief said.

Demand in China

According to Lim, geckos largely figure in the wildlife trade because of a demand in China, where their body parts are used in Chinese medicine.

Jose Cruzaguya, head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, said several locals had asked his office to issue permits to "transport" mbu, but that they were all turned down since it would be in violation of the wildlife act.

Those interested in "breeding" mbu, however, may secure special permits from regional offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Cruzaguya added.

With a report from Cristine L. Abanes in Manila

Hottest of biodiversity hot spots found in PH

From page A1

danger of biodiversity loss.

Fortaire described it as a "silver" crisis. "You don't see it, but you feel it. We are in the middle of it."

Habitat loss, contamination of resources, climate change, invasive alien species and pollution have not been arrested and continue to negatively impact biodiversity," he said in a statement.

These threats have contributed to the decline in the resources, coral reef, mangrove, forest, agro, grassland and freshwater ecosystems, Fortaire noted.

Reversing the trend

Officials said it would be difficult to reverse the trend because it often took years to get ecosystems back in balance.

Moreover, people and government usually realize the loss of species and ecosystems when the crisis is there, making ecosystem healers and more expensive, Fortaire said.

Ignacio said the Philippines' main problem was the loss of habitats due to deforestation and coastal degradation.

He cited as an example the recent discovery of black coral patches in the coast of Bicolandia, a part of the Coral Triangle where one of the world's richest marine resources can be found.

Coral reefs are considered to be "rainforests of the seas," providing food, sustenance and protection to many marine species.

The loss of one species could have a domino effect on other creatures that depend directly and indirectly on it, the officials said.

Unabated logging

In the Philippines, deforestation is caused by unmitigated logging and urbanization.

According to the DENR, the Philippines has 8 million hectares of denuded and idle forest lands. A recent study by Conservation International (CI) said only about 6 percent of the Philippines' forests remained as natural habitat for many endemic species.

Forest lands are being cleared to make way for food production and other activities to meet the needs of the country's rising population, now around 90 million, CI noted.

According to the DENR, the country loses about 72 percent of its forests every year. The Philippine government is working to reverse the trend by planting 1.5 billion trees in six years.

Poor coastal management and unregulated fishing have contributed to the decline of water resources and coastal areas, the environmentalists said.

The World Wide Fund for Nature recently said the Philippine coral reefs have over 21,000 square kilometers of healthy coral reefs.

However, 10 years of destructive commercial and unregulated fishing have left less than 5 percent in excellent condition, with just 7 percent in pristine state.

Ignacio said the DENR could not quantify the country's biodiversity loss, noting that there had been an assessment of its "extensive" amount of resources, he said.

Widespread destruction

Monalisa Lim, director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, said the destruction of Philippines' coral reefs to get rare and valuable black corals appeared to be wider than initially reported. The area could be the size of Manila, she said.

Lim noted that it would take years for the reefs to recover their original health as corals are "slow growing" creatures. Black corals, for instance, grow only 2 millimeters a year. It could take 25,000 years for the black corals to grow to their original size, Lim said.

The waters off Mindanao are not the only part of the country that are under threat from reckless practices. The entire Philippines' waters and seas are their harvest grounds, Lim said.

Many species are critically endangered, and sharks have been poached and sold illegally to Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, where demand is high, she said.

The Philippines has 20,000 kilometers of coastline and is considered to be the world's second largest archipelago.

But even sources officials said they did not have enough men, power and resources to guard the country's coastline and seas.

Five years. Five branches. Five winners.
Every Php5,00
entitles you to one
of five Mercedes Be
There wil
The more you pu
Promo exclu
S&R
5 TO DRIVE
5 Mercedes Benz C-Class
to be raffled off!
See posters and fliers for full promo details.
Colors of cars shown here may vary from colors of actual prize
Bonifacio Global City • Alabang • Congressio
www.snrshopping.com

Chinatown stores asked to stop selling Taiwan food products

By Jayvee T. Cuenca

AN ENVIRONMENTAL group is urging store owners in Chinatown in Binondo, Manila, to be on the alert for contaminated Taiwan-made food products following a recent Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) warning.

The FDA recently advised the public to avoid Taiwanese food items and preserves, fruit juices, sports drinks, teas, food products and food or food supplement tablets, after the Taiwan government late yesterday admitted that its officials illegally mixed the industrial chemical plasticizer DEHP, a plastic-making chemical that can be dangerous when ingested in high doses.

The chemical could cause infertility and block development of male sex organs, FDA officials said.

Earlier this month, Taiwan banned a major recall of products, including more than 600,000 bottles of sports drinks and fruit juice, over fears they contained the chemical widely used in manufacturing PVC products.

Taipei warned Manila last week that DEHP could have been illegally added to food products that were exported to the Philippines.

On Tuesday morning, the Kalikasan Coalition went from store to store in Chinatown, leaving placards in Chinese and English that said "Stock[s] of] imported products DEHP free."

They stopped by stores from St. Jacob Church in Sta. Cruz Church, crossing then over through Ongpin, Carvajal, Salazar, Masangkay, T. Alonzo and T. Mapa streets.

They gave representatives, grocers and shop owners a list of DEHP-contaminated products downloaded from the Taiwanese government website, and asked the sellers to pull out "high-risk" Taiwanese products from their shelves.

In a statement, Aileen Lucero, chemical safety campaigner of Kalikasan Coalition, appealed to "all importers, distributors, and vendors of high-risk beverage, food and medicinal goods from Taiwan to temporarily stop from selling such products until consumer safety from DEHP is totally guaranteed."

"To date, almost 1000 products from manufactured by 141 Taiwanese food and drink companies have been found to contain DEHP," Lucero said in a statement.

The group also advised sellers that products that fail to ensure DEHP-free certification should be returned to importers or distributors for safe disposal.

The FDA had earlier warned that DEHP, especially when taken by children, could lead to malaise, dizziness, kidney and fertility problems, and even cancer.

The FDA is monitoring some imported Taiwanese sport drinks, fruit juices and drinks that Taipei said may contain excessive amounts of DEHP. It also urged consumers from Taiwan to report to the agency any of the products they have bought.

Promo period is from June 1 to October 31, 2011
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2011

nal • Aseana-Baclaran • Cebu

S&R
membership shopping
The world class shopping experience

INQUIRER

OPINION

The puff that kills

EDITORIAL

WHENEVER THERE is talk about increasing taxes on tobacco products, the standard response of the industry is to warn that government could lose a rich source of revenue since higher taxes would cut tobacco consumption or even drive tobacco farmers and cigarette manufacturers out of business. But maybe our policymakers and lawmakers should take a closer look at the cold goose and see if it is really laying those golden eggs.

According to the Department of Health, government hospitals are spending a total of P2.35 billion a year to treat illnesses caused or related to smoking, like heart diseases, stroke, emphysema and lung cancer. And P235 billion is still a "conservative estimate," according to Health Undersecretary Ted Herbosa. On the other hand, Herbosa said, the tobacco industry contributes only P13 billion every year to the government's coffers a tenth of the health costs of smoking. If these figures are even just half-accurate, then it is time to kill the goose and save human lives.

Smoking kills 10 Filipinos every hour, or 241 a day and 87,680 a year, according to data gathered by the Department of Health and the World Health Organization. (Worldwide the number of deaths from tobacco-related diseases is more than five million, according to the WHO.) The Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) said lung diseases make up four of the top 10 causes of death in the Philippines: pneumonia, emphysema, tuberculosis and lung cancer. "The connection between breath and life is fundamental," the 900-strong PCCP said, "but the evidence shows that lung health is not high on the public health agenda. Political commitment remains inadequate to effect significant change."

The lung doctors were apparently referring to, among other shortcomings, the half-hearted efforts of the government to curb smoking. A survey done in 2009 showed that more than 17 million Filipinos or 18 percent of the population smoked regularly although 84 percent were aware that smoking caused various illnesses. Among the smokers, 68.6 percent said they wanted to kick the habit, and 47.8 percent actually made an attempt to quit. Only 4.5 percent succeeded.

Yesterday to help celebrate "World No-Tobacco Day," the Metro Manila Development Authority dusted off a 2003 law banning smoking in public places and launched a campaign for a "100% Smoke-Free Metro." The campaign starts with month-long drive to make smokers aware of the places where they cannot take a puff, at the end of which violators will be arrested and fined.

It's a good way to kick off an anti-smoking campaign, but if the government is really serious about curbing smoking and saving lives, it should apply other measures that have been proven effective in other countries.

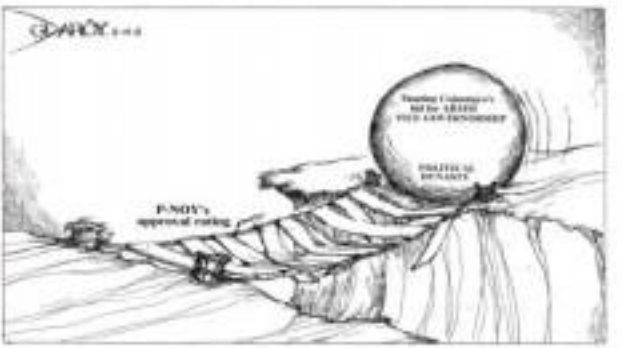
The first is to require manufacturers to print on every cigarette pack graphic warnings about the health risks involved in smoking. The Department of Health imposed this requirement last year, but cigarette makers have challenged the order in court, claiming that the law calls only for written warnings. The irony is that Philip Morris Philippines, the country's biggest cigarette maker, sells packs with text-only warnings in the Philippines but puts graphic pictures on the cigarette packs it exports to Thailand. If indeed there is no law requiring the printing of graphic warnings, Congress should pass one as soon as possible.

Another measure that has been found effective in curtailing smoking is raising the tax on tobacco products. At 58 percent, the Philippine tax on cigarettes is one of the lowest in Asia (the tax rate is 45 percent in Vietnam, 54 percent in Malaysia and 77 percent in Thailand). If the statistics are correct, there is no way government can lose by raising taxes. If the higher taxes do not discourage consumption, then government earns more. If they result in a drastic drop in consumption, then the government also ends up on top financially with massive savings on health costs. Even better, thousands of Filipino lives will be saved.

Publisher **SANDY TICHOY**
Editor in Chief/CEO **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Managing Editor **JOSE NIC D. NICDAO**
Associate Editor **ARMANDO S. DOROY**
Associate Editor for Broadcasting **BENJAMIN N. CARREON**
Opinion Editor **JOSEF D'ANGELO**
News Editor **ANTONIO T. ENANORIO JR.** • Chief Page One Optimizer **ANA R. ROMERO**
Chief News Page Designer **MARIA KRISTA ALMARIO**
National Editor **FERNANDO B. BARAMBAN JR.**
Senior Desk Editor **JOSEPH SARMIENTO JR.**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DOROLAN**
Chief Photographer **RAFY ALCANTARA**
Art & Design Director **LARRY G. VILLAMIN**

Board Chairman **HOWARD S. PRAETO**
President **ALEXANDRE PRAETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **ROMAN R. RAMOS**
Vice President for Advertising **ROSIE R. OLANDO**
Vice President for Inter-Technical Print Press **CHRISTOPHER C. LIMPO**
Vice President for Finance **JOSEPH M. VILLARIN**
AVP for Circulation **MANUEL ANDREW S. CALINGO IV**
Corporate Affairs Manager **CHARMAINE R. ALVAREZ**

All rights reserved. Copyright protected by law. No part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, and may not be stored in a retrieval system, without prior written permission.



Buy Digitel's assets but not its franchise

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

NO SECRET is a letter from Mr. Ray C. Espinosa, a PLDT director and head of its Regulatory and Policy Affairs, commenting on our May 27 column which criticized the tender requirement by PLDT-Smart of rival Digitel, and insisted that if the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) allowed this to go through, it would undermine the power of Congress to grant franchises for the use of its airwaves. PLDT can buy the assets, (but) does not include the franchise which still have to go back to the State and must be reassigned by Congress to another telecom operator.

What would happen, I asked, if while Congress was considering the grant PLDT gobbled up all the competitors by offering to buy them at prices they could not refuse? There are would be back to the dark days of the PLDT monopoly when Filipinos waited for years to get a telephone line and many hours for a dial tone.

Competition is the best reason for good service as we have now the case with which we can communicate even with our relatives and friends abroad through cellphones. If there was only PLDT-Smart serving our cell phone needs, do you think it would be this easy?

Also, the nonsense of Mr. Espinosa did not even count as risk control. Instead he quoted many people as saying that the PLDT-Digitel merger would "not lead to a monopoly." In semi-literate words.

But in fairness to PLDT and to the interests of fair play, I will quote extensively from Mr. Espinosa's letter. You may or may not choose to believe it.

"Let me start with the question you raised with respect to the legality of the transaction," Mr. Espinosa begins. "I just wish to emphasize two points. First, PLDT and Digitel have been fully transparent and have made timely substantial disclosures regarding the nature and terms of the agreement. Second, we have complied with all the applicable laws and legal procedures.

"The nature of this transaction received due acquisition by PLDT of 12.33 percent of the shares of Digitel stocks which will be paid in the form of new PLDT common shares. Debentures transaction are quite typical in the telecommunications industry and usually do not generate much controversy. A case in point is the acquisition by Globe Telecom of then-ailing Bell Communications, Inc. back in 2000-2001.

"In that transaction, Globe acquired 100 percent ownership of Islacom...also through a share swap deal. After signing an agreement with the sellers, Globe applied for and obtained the regulatory approvals from the NTC, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). They did in fact obtain NTC approval in February 2001 and voting/proxy got the nods of both the SEC and PSE. They did not however seek congressional approval.

"Second, we wish to assure you that from the Digitel deal will remain consistently are mandated. That completion of the transactions will indeed enhance PLDT's market position. But by no means will the transaction make PLDT the only players in town. In fact, Globe remains a strong competitor and the San Miguel group has been very vocal about its plans to join the fray. There are both capable and well-established business groups with well-funded league operators. It would be foolish for PLDT to expect competition to weaken.

"It is interesting to note that the initial, spontaneous...and arguably the most truth-ful...reactions of top Globe officials to the transaction were in fact supportive of the view that competition in the industry would remain robust and active. For example, Globe president Mr. Gerardo Ablaza commented on the day the deal was announced. When asked if he had foreseen the transaction, he said not.

Hero

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DON'T LOOK now, but three weeks from now we'll be celebrating Jose Rizal's 150th birthday. Well, you won't see much even if you do look. Though some groups have been busily trying to notify the country of the event, and remind parishioners of Rizal 150 alarm some and pertinents of it being down on some of the city's streets, there's little there to suggest the big deal that it is.

Rizal's memory seems more remembered in the breach than in the observance. Of course he has more street names (and even bus stops) to other hero, he is the centerpiece of legal tests, but he has organizations like the Knights of Rizal expressly devoted to keeping his memory alive, for every bus ride worshipping him as savior or every statue of him with him facing Antoli Bonifacio as Bonifacio and chevalier.

But I don't know that he has surged that deeply into the culture or the national consciousness. He is spoken here and there, there of his many heroic achievements being, "The youth is the hope of the fatherland," "Those who can't see where they came from won't get to where they are going," and "Those who do not have a language of their own smell worse than rotten fish." The last appears plentifully during Linggo ng Wika.

But I don't know that he looms large in the everyday life of the nation in the way that, say, the Founding Fathers loom large in the everyday life of America. I don't know that his complaints are well known to the people in the way that, say, Gandhi or Mao's exploits are well known to their people. I don't even know that most Filipinos have read "Noli" and "Fili," or know how they go...even if they have heard about them.

I pity because, however trite it sounds, the guy only has much to say to us today even four by way of example. As is the only hero to in everyday life of America. I don't know that his complaints are well known to the people in the way that, say, Gandhi or Mao's exploits are well known to their people. I don't even know that most Filipinos have read "Noli" and "Fili," or know how they go...even if they have heard about them.

I pity because, however trite it sounds, the guy only has much to say to us today even four by way of example. As is the only hero to in everyday life of America. I don't know that his complaints are well known to the people in the way that, say, Gandhi or Mao's exploits are well known to their people. I don't even know that most Filipinos have read "Noli" and "Fili," or know how they go...even if they have heard about them.

In a literary first of its kind in the annals of his country, To appreciate the depth of Rizal's achievement, you have to see it in the context of his times. Those times were not conducive to any writing, overtaking or otherwise. For those students...or tattoo since there were no Filipinos at that. Rizal would be the first. Those were times when the colonial masters systematically subjugated their subjects' minds as ferociously as they did their bodies. They were times of total oblivion, way of life—call it what you will—was devoted to making the indio feel inferior, no, utterly insignificant, a beast of burden, an insect, the fastest by nature to tacitly exploited.

Rizal's greatness as of subjugation was not something that he said or did; it was what he was. That probably would have executed him anyone even if he had not written savage satires of the friars and their brethren in governance. His very existence was nefarious.

He was brilliant. That was the most overdone thing of all.

But, here a rule dedicated to reducing the talent to nothingness—a touch of any good for nothings who loved the Spaniards a favor for ruling them, and who would deny one of them shown himself not just to be perfectly capable but to be exceptional as. Yet here is this dedicated to making the ruled believe you were the best of subjects...the indios were a bunch of dirty who would be lost without you—and then, suddenly, one of them shows himself not just to be your equal but to be better than you. You would be pissed off too. You would want to put rid of the impertinent creature too.

But there was often Rizal was. He wasn't just a brilliant man, he was also a man of action. He was a veritable swashbuckler. He wasn't just an intelligentsia studying a room of restless souls grouping in the dark, he was an absolute renaissance man. Who among the Spaniards could boast, alone having become, at such young age, a writer, historian, sculptor, painter, doctor, ophthalmologist, draftsman, fencer? Who did these things marvelously well, to boot? Well, maybe they were heroes in court—or sinners in the public—but nothing close to the duplicable indio.

If for the above, Rizal should have overwhelming to say to today's youth about how the sense of times may not be an impediment to striving for excellence, to aspiring after genius, to standing for the things that are worthy.

But he has more to say to the youth about freedom. Much more much more. Chief among here is that that nothing becomes all the more luminous when done in the service of one's own country. Rizal was a man of many talents. He could not have left brilliant people who have shown world-class talent in various fields. In the arts particularly we are repeatedly gifted in that respect. But few, if any, have rivaled Rizal in scale of achievement. Few, if any, have studied Rizal in possessing so epic a cause of talent and been willing to say it down to the last of rising breast. Still even fewer, if any, have been blessed with genius and been willing to die for principle...down now, my Philippines dear, there was no principle greater than it.

Oh, but thought? Read "Shinto Adieu." It's still about country.

It's day and age especially when we see the best and the brightest leaving the country for a crack at a fleeting affluent, when we see the rise...to love and brightness devoting their waking hours in public service to screwing the public—never discovering the infinite wonder and pleasure of ill-gotten wealth in old age, when they should be discovering those very properties in simplicity—it's good to remember we had a Rizal. A Rizal who could have gained unparalleled honor and renown in his time, all he had to do was take his back on his life to go on living, no one would even blame him if he did...but who chose instead in the prime of his life and in the fullness of his abilities to embrace life by dying for his friends.

Heroes don't come any finer better.

Monopolistic rampage

THE ACQUISITION by PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) of Digitel's San Cellular has sparked in Philippine business circles widespread fears of a new era of monopoly created by the telecommunications industry.

More than this, the long-running public debate over the implications of the merger to fair and free competition in Philippine-style laissez faire capitalism but also focused attention on the phenomenal predatory takeover of more than a dozen of important Philippine business companies by mega-overseas conglomerates. In particular, the Hong Kong-based First Pacific International Corporation (FPIC). The MPIC is chaired by Manuel V. Pangilinan, who holds court in Manila and, sometimes, in Hong Kong, as chairman of PLDT, one of the leading companies in the Philippines, in which First Pacific has considerable investments. Incidentally, PLDT, is one of the oldest public utilities in the country for long reign of undisputed dominance has appeared to have loosened by the challenges have presented by Pangilinan, a scion of leftist dust is has the persuasive right to rule this arena.

So fearful is the Philippine political class over the economic penetration of the arms of First Pacific companies and its effect on the autonomy of the Philippine economy that it has been pressuring the Congress to put teeth to the country's weak anti-trust regulations. Such move, as proponents say, should put a stop to the predatory expansion acquisitions by regional mega companies, the control of which is exercised by a few powerful families, such as Ideon Pacific, the issue of whether the merger of PLDT and Pilipinas Telephone Corp. (Piltel) will result in a monopoly in the telecommunications industry.

The President said, "The petition that I terminate has a deal with the allocated frequencies being adjusted to each entity providing an entire allocation. It is not in any case within seventy-six for that purported merger that nobody else would be able to compete."

The President issued the order after government regulatory agencies such as the NTC) opposed more and relaxation to assure their regular. Congress is to investigate the anti-trust implications to stop predatory practices "in restraint" of trade. It also prompted Executive Agencies under the Departments of Transfer and Technology and the National Telecommunications Commission to investigate whether the PLDT-Digitel merger will pose undue advantages to it. The President wants to know from these regulatory agencies whether the merger would curtail competition. Telecom industry sources have come up with the conclusion that the merger has not only curtailed competition but has also paved the way for the PLDT monopoly to take over the telecommunications industry in a two-way competition between the dominant PLDT-Smart combine [with its acquisition of Digitel's San Cellular assets and facilities] and the second industry competitor, Bayan Telecom.

The dynamics and the mechanics of the transformation of the telecom market into duopoly after the merger have been amply explained by industry experts and economic pundits, including the PLDT and Globe spokespersons, and my immediate concern is to call attention to the fact that the Aquino administration is now beginning to let issues that in capacity and political will to intervene in the merger are being put to a test. It has order signaling that the government has now decided to intervene to level the playing field in the telecom sector, the president, in particular, has called the attention of the DOJT and NTC to complaints from other players in the telecom sector that they are being excluded from the field.

The President said, "The petition that I terminate has a deal with the allocated frequencies being adjusted to each entity providing an entire allocation. It is not in any case within seventy-six for that purported merger that nobody else would be able to compete."

The President issued the order after government regulatory agencies such as the NTC) opposed more and relaxation to assure their regular. Congress is to investigate the anti-trust implications to stop predatory practices "in restraint" of trade. It also prompted Executive Agencies under the Departments of Transfer and Technology and the National Telecommunications Commission to investigate whether the PLDT-Digitel merger will pose undue advantages to it. The President wants to know from these regulatory agencies whether the merger would curtail competition. Telecom industry sources have come up with the conclusion that the merger has not only curtailed competition but has also paved the way for the PLDT monopoly to take over the telecommunications industry in a two-way competition between the dominant PLDT-Smart combine [with its acquisition of Digitel's San Cellular assets and facilities] and the second industry competitor, Bayan Telecom.

The dynamics and the mechanics of the transformation of the telecom market into duopoly after the merger have been amply explained by industry experts and economic pundits, including the PLDT and Globe spokespersons, and my immediate concern is to call attention to the fact that the Aquino administration is now beginning to let issues that in capacity and political will to

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

mergers of PLDT and Piltel is beneficial to telecom product consumers, but cannot overlook its negative value to the cause of whether the Philippine economy is strong enough to curb the predatory activities of monopoly-motivated companies. The issue, basically about the power of the Philippine state to impose its authority under the terms of public interest, is being debated in the Congress and in the executive branch. The issue is one pertinent practice "in restraint" of trade. It also prompted Executive Agencies under the Departments of Transfer and Technology and the National Telecommunications Commission to investigate whether the PLDT-Digitel merger will pose undue advantages to it. The President wants to know from these regulatory agencies whether the merger would curtail competition. Telecom industry sources have come up with the conclusion that the merger has not only curtailed competition but has also paved the way for the PLDT monopoly to take over the telecommunications industry in a two-way competition between the dominant PLDT-Smart combine [with its acquisition of Digitel's San Cellular assets and facilities] and the second industry competitor, Bayan Telecom.

The dynamics and the mechanics of the transformation of the telecom market into duopoly after the merger have been amply explained by industry experts and economic pundits, including the PLDT and Globe spokespersons, and my immediate concern is to call attention to the fact that the Aquino administration is now beginning to let issues that in capacity and political will to

Rizal and RH

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Catholic hierarchy when it was proposed in 1903. In a line now echoed by anti-RH legislators, opponents of the Rizal Law argued that the legislation violated the "freedom of conscience and religion" of Filipino Catholics. This was contrasted to Rizal's writings, such as his novels "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" were strongly anti-clerical and justly-pointed and lambasted the hypocrisy of the Spanish clergy in the Philippines.

Indeed, this is the reason the single-word "Damaso," in your public and social circle Father Gelabert's one-time private action as the Manila Cathedral, remained so powerfully relevant just over 100 years later. Rizal made the prelates and religious figures he condemned. Padre Damaso was a character in "Noli" and through the decades he came to symbolize all the frailty and vanities of priests and bishops, turning something unique of purely fiction living off the fat of the land while preaching humility and servitude to the nation.

As one of those, the Rizal Law was passed and signed into law, and even students in Catholic educational institutions like the University of Santo Tomas (which counts Rizal as an alumnus) couldn't go without the Rizal Course in its classrooms. The upshot, as we know it, or even the Noli and El Filibusterismo, the two novels did not come crumbling in relevance with the teaching of Rizal's life and writings. And neither would the Filipino heroes lose their values with the passage of the RH bill.

AS EXPECTED, the real intent of senators behind the filing of the bills on the "Protection of the Unborn Child" law have revealed to be second.

COMMENTING on the motives of the five senators, she notes that "They know that there would be no truth on the issues of when life begins and when it ends, and even when the fetus can feel pain, so they have to rely on the issue of the child's health. Organizations like the Philippine Medical Association's Line of Essential Medicines which clearly and separately categorizes contraceptives and abortives. Thus, these bracings are unnecessary."

COMMENTING on the motives of the five senators, she notes that "They know that there would be no truth on the issues of when life begins and when it ends, and even when the fetus can feel pain, so they have to rely on the issue of the child's health. Organizations like the Philippine Medical Association's Line of Essential Medicines which clearly and separately categorizes contraceptives and abortives. Thus, these bracings are unnecessary."

Email: rina@inquirer.com.ph

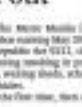
Smoked out

SMOKERS BEWARE. The Metro Manila Development Authority has announced that starting May 28, they will strictly enforce provisions in Republic Act 9211, the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003, banning smoking in public places. That includes bus terminals, waiting sheds, schools, recreational places, public utility vehicles.

You'll get a warning the first time, then a fine of P100 for eight days of non-compliance (under the surrounding violation, escalating to P1,000 and P5,000, respectively).

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tee



The anti-smoking campaign groups are full of malignant protests from smokers and gentlemen, those who have still become smoker-conscious of synergism, i.e., the MMDA may also smokers only when they need kissing, cops, I'm sorry I mean motorists.

Is the MMDA serious here? They better be because this is an old law that not hasn't been enforced. The MMDA now-based enforcement sessions have been quieted by a P9,1-028 fine imposed by Quezon City Philanthropic Inc. (see earlier Metro Manila to 2011). Let's hope they do put teeth into RA 9211.

And while we're at it, we should look at urban anti-smoking areas that are observed more in breach. In CP-hosting session at the College of Law we have, someone asked why there were no designated smoking areas in the college and that there are infringement of human rights. I was moderating the forum and was shocked at the question. I hope the question wasn't from a law faculty member, but even it, came from a student, it would still have been a disturbing statement of ignorance of the law. There is a Civil Service Commission directive that bans smoking in government instructions, which is dated '98. That means don't shouldn't even be smoking in or within the premises of government offices or institutions, including outdoor areas. If you want to smoke, you have to leave the premises and now watch out for the MMDA enforcers. If they issue tickets, I guess the Manila's are also serious about implementing RA 9211.)

The rationale for all these bans is one of public health, the evidence now overwhelming that non-smokers can suffer the adverse effects of tobacco's chemicals through secondhand smoke. Most of the deaths are due to cancer, chronic respiratory diseases like asthma and emphysema, and heart disease. Young children and the elderly are especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of second hand smoke. In real, the World Health Organization estimates that about 80,000 deaths each year in the Philippines are linked to tobacco use, first- and second-hand.

Non-smoking zones

Besides that angle of protecting non-smokers, I feel that we actually help the smokers as well because in the long run, the best way to help individuals restrain or give up smoking is to educate them, not shame in

A balikbayan's nightmare

LETTERS

MY fellow balikbayans, I always look forward to going home and disembarking around the Philippines with my family. However, with a heavy heart, I must say that arriving in Manila was a nightmare. When our family ran pre-work in traffic along Airport Road in Pasay, a lady manager turned upon our car's window and begged for a meager dollar. My mom (God bless her) hasn't gone to exchange PHP, thinking she would have no alms. However, he didn't stop asking for a dollar while he tried to reach for the car's door; we also noticed that he was concealing beer many baggage were in the car. We were farther than the 1,000 we owe as which was intended by similar looking thugs. There were no police in sight! We felt scared and helpless, so we decided to document the guy, with her pepper spray while we jammed the guy's face forward the window. The guy on [illegible] gave up when we reached the international and where our van started to speed up. I know that there are many children out in Manila's balikbayans. I have watched in the news that desperate people do desperate things and airport terminals, but how come the police are facing nothing about that?

To add to our travel nightmare, the airline was a big mess. Terminal 3 was a mother place, full of passengers who were not aptly informed about their flights. Lines for check-in were all over the place, ground personnel were walking around shouting to the high heavens which flights were boarding. This scene [illegible] we wonder if the airline even bothered to train its staff on PR and proper communication skills. They didn't even have the formality to use the public address system or even a megaphone so they can properly announce important flight information to [illegible] and [illegible].

Now, I'm not saying that we should not be proud Filipinos when we are abroad, but I'm saying that we should be proud Filipinos when we are in our own country, but I can't deny that there is something wrong in the system!

—ORLIN LARCH,
New Zealand, ying_arnel@yahoo.com

Blow against GSIS members, pensioners

MOST of the sufferings of its members were not enough, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) made another blow to poor public schoolteachers and government workers when it "put its housing loan program on hold as it is faced with cash deficit issues of P11 billion for 17,000 house and occupancies nationwide," (Inquirer, 5/13/2011).

This action of the GSIS defies logic and reason. Why should it punish its members by suspending the grant of housing loans when this problem was caused by mismanagement, irresponsible, abuse and corruption committed in the past, especially during the time of its former president and general manager Winston Garcia, a member of a powerful political clan in Cebu?

In an article titled "GSIS: a govt venture without service" (Inquirer, 5/13/11), the author cited the numerous unconscionable acts of abuse and misuse of GSIS funds. GSIS were by-catchers in the hard-earned contributions of government employees, including public schoolteachers. But it is disquieting to note that the GSIS management was too much distracted as it pushed to the limit the patience of its members. As long as its officials and employees continued to get their insurance benefits and bonuses and incentives, they didn't give a damn to accountability to public service.

And now, the GSIS has the gall to suspend housing loans for its members who have paid dreams of having their own homes with affordable GSIS loans. That is the second time the GSIS has done this. It claims it is installing in the mid-70s, it did the same, to the amazement and disappointment of its members. It stopped giving housing loans following the discovery of a big anomaly within some GSIS officials were using as evidence for their claims the numerous complaints they signed by its members. The chief of the GSIS management was indicted years by the closure of the GSIS Hospital, which was strategically located on Isaac Avenue, Quezon City. The hospital was subsequently converted into the Philippine Heart Center of Asia which renamed the hospital as East Avenue Medical Center. Really, the GSIS management has been arrogantly demonstrating its penchant for inflicting punishments on its members. Their cases are a set of irregularities which led to billion and billions of pesos stolen by disgruntled GSIS members, mostly pensioners.

So, as to officials and employees widow is luxurious increases perks and benefits, what will the GSIS management do next?

—ESTEBAN T. SANTIAGO,
founder/spokesman, Kapatiran, and former president,
Quezon City Public School Teachers Association,
ressandiego@yahoo.com

Can Manny Pacquiao have his cake and eat it too?

WHILE CONGRESS was in session, the good congressmen of Sarangani was occupied with hosting Shane Mosley for greater personal glory and fabulous earnings. And so it has happened that he is now the richest legislator of the Philippines and the highest-paid athlete of the world—with no less than US President Barack Obama and a host of other celebrities in his fans.

It is heartening to note that many concerned Filipinos wish for his retirement from losing now while he is still fit and able, not only for his well-being but more for his awesome responsibilities as Rep. Emmanuel Pacquiao.

But it is sad to note that Mike Arroyo during an interview with Pastor Quiboloy's spokesperson Abigail Valte "told her want to put your best fight ... and that the star of the society will be eagerly awaiting another spectacular match for the Pastor."

Does while this unfolding controversy of the leadership of the House of Representatives on the matter of Representative Pacquiao's non-attendance, with now a coup of groups from the supposed patriotic and non-political party-list representatives of Congress. What's more, the champion's interest in the session was located with more time consuming advances, whereas nine is of the interest for more productive work.

It should be stressed that Pacquiao was elected to Congress to serve his constituents and help legislate measures for the country's much needed transformation. It is a full-time job. And as part-timing as congressmen seem to be inimical to good governance and legislation for a terminal of public trust in Pandaca Aquino's "daang matuwid?" Hence, it would be unethical for Representative Pacquiao to enjoy the pay and perks of his office under the circumstances.

But, of course, we should not lose sight of his pro-fight around the "poorest right to avoid poverty in my country."

Coincidentally, Bob Arum referred to his prized fighter as the "Social Welfare Administrator of the Philippines." Hence, is probably explains Arum's resentment to calls for Pacquiao's retirement from boxing at this time, which the promoter described as "nonsense." For both of them could still make much more money there but while the are chosen.

But I would rather die on this. Come it boxes [illegible] Representative Pacquiao's campaign against poverty (Inquirer, 5/11/11), especially the its sustainability if ever that's would be one funded with Representative Pacquiao's own money, not with his pork barrel allocation—just as he has President Aquino's pledge of P300 million for a hospital in his province.

That could be Pacman's gateway to greatness, be more than being an icon of boxing. But of course, the first great step is setting an example, as a good citizen—by paying the right taxes due him.

We pray that Pacquiao does not miss the boat for greatness.

—BENJAMIN B. BERDULLAS,
c/o mbrdlasan@speedyahoo.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to 896-6795, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

SPLIT NA TAYO!

With a fare that lets you go and fly!

50% OFF

ALL DOMESTIC and INTERNATIONAL* DESTINATIONS!

More than 500,000 seats available!

Sale Period: May 31-Jun. 3, 2011 • Travel Period: Aug. 1-Oct. 31, 2011

*Bangkok, Beijing, Brunei, Busan, Guangzhou, Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Incheon, Jakarta, Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur, Macau, Osaka, Singapore, Shanghai or Taipei

Limited availability. Fares are non-refundable. Fares are exclusive of government fees, taxes and fuel surcharges. Flight changes must be made more than 24 hours before scheduled time of departure. At time of booking, pre-purchase your baggage allowance to save time and money at check-in. CEB approved terms and conditions at seatsale apply and are available online at www.cebupacificair.com. Call (02) 70-20-888 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.

Like us on facebook.com/cebupacificair

Follow us on twitter.com/cebupacificair

WEB CHECK-IN! Go online to avoid the line!

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

BDO

Metrobank

SECURICOM

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bautista
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

ALELIMO Lombay, the former La Union agriculturist, believes that agriculture research and technology will help boost the country's economy. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

'Grape King' says agriculture can help economy take off

By Charlie Kelch
San Fernando City

ALELIMO LOMBAY, the retired provincial agriculturist of La Union who is credited for propagating grapes in the province, did not have a normal childhood.

Growing up in a farm in Bauang town, he had to work for everything.

Every day, before going to school, Lombay would feed the family's carabao, chickens and pigs. When he got home in the afternoon, he would again tend their livestock.

On weekends, apart from fishing after their farm animals, he went in the mountains to gather firewood that he would sell so he would have money for school expenses.

At high school, he said his friends would cite Jesus' growth in the mountains and plant spirit as they could pay their tuition.

He also helped his parents, who were also engaged in fishing, weeded their tobacco and rice crops.

Through most of his older brothers and sisters had jobs, Lombay, the youngest in a brood of eight, did not want to be supported by his siblings.

"I refused to bother my siblings. I wanted to prove that I could stand on my own," Lombay says.

At an early age, he believed that farmers could help propel the economy and the country could benefit from agriculture.

He says the government should fund more research on crops that could adapt to global warming, develop taxation-specific technology and farming technologies, such as provisioning, which would increase the survival rate and productivity of crops.

Research

"All progressive countries start with research," he says.

He hated that farmers had to resort to hard to manage income, he says. He underscored the plight of farmers, who, he says, hardly make enough food for their families.

With hope and resolve, Lombay sought to change the system and improve the lives of his fellow farmers.

"I wanted to change the agricultural landscape of the place. I wanted their subsistence agriculture to be transformed to a higher level of farming. I wanted to introduce crops that are not traditionally grown in the area," he says.

After graduating from Araneta University in 1966, Lombay worked as farm manager for Chemical Industries of the Philippines (Chemphil), a Metro Manila-based company engaged in the production of industrial chemicals. However, three years into his job, he realized that his heart was in farming.

He quit Chemphil in 1969 and returned to his hometown in Bauang. He relied his hand in growing bananas, mushrooms and vegetables, but without much success.

Grape growing

In 1972, he shifted to growing grapes on the advice of a friend. Being in a tropical country, Lombay knew that farming conditions might not support grape growing because the crop needs a temperate climate. But this obstacle only inspired him to try growing grapes, putting the seeds to his success.

"Grape growing in the Philippines is not a normal process—grape is not a normal product, it is not a normal crop. I was challenged. I had some knowledge and experience and with local varieties. I imported seeds from the United States and planted 20 vines in my backyard," Lombay says.

"I was on my own. I had no body to ask about how grapes are supposed to be cultivated," he says.

After a year of experiments, Lombay's vines bore fruits. After two years of continuous research and tests, he discovered the key to the production of grapes.

"Grapes love hot, dry summer and the Ilocos region has long dry season. When tiempos (time, grapes will thrive," Lombay says.

He then sought to increase his production. He planted 40 more vines and, soon, he was sending 500 stems. He hired himself training more hand in his production increased.

In 1984, he was growing grapes on a combined 2.5 hectares of land in Bolo, Bauhala, Nueva Ecija and La Union. Three years later, his business took off.

Lombay says while commercial than normally produce grapes harvest only once a year, he was harvesting three times a year in the late 1980s in the 1990s.

But it was not all calm waters for Lombay.

Several foreign organizations discouraged him from growing grapes, stating these cannot be grown profitably in the Philippines.

In the 1990s, some foreign scientists met with him and then Agriculture Secretary Senen Bacani and told them that the country should change its grape variety.

Lombay, however, stood his ground.

"They were asking us to remove and change the existing grape varieties. I told them that it was a country's sovereign decision

Assistant Editor Tony Bengcayo

Across the NATION

Marcos spoils Aquino campaign to postpone elections in ARMM

By TJ Burgonio

A SENATE committee headed by the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos yesterday rejected a bill endorsed by President Aquino seeking to postpone elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao until reforms were put in place there.

The committee on local government, headed by Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., submitted a report refusing to recommend the passage of a bill that would postpone ARMM elections scheduled in August.

"The committee report is what it is going to be," said Marcos after a final hearing of his committee on the election postponement that is being pushed by Mr. Aquino, son of the late President Corazon Aquino who led a peaceful revolt that toppled the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

"In fairness, nobody in the administration has asked me to change anything," Marcos said.

Principles of autonomy

He said called Senators of the bill, among them allowing the President to appoint officers to change in ARMM, run counter to the principles of autonomy.

"Legal arguments aside, those proposals to control the elections, appoint OICs, strike at the very heart of the autonomy so hard-fought by our Muslim brothers," said the senator whose father was taken to task in the 1960s for the so-called Jabidah Massacre which started from a mission in Corregidor of Muslim recruits who were later executed to keep the Jabidah mission a secret.

The refusal of Marcos' committee to endorse the postponement effectively sends the bill to the archives. At least five senators, however, could retrieve it from there and bring it to a vote.

Aquino allies

Sen. Franklin Drilon, author of the Senate bill that would postpone the ARMM elections, expressed confidence the bill isn't dead. "I'm reasonably optimistic that we have the support of the majority," Drilon said.

Sen. Pantilel Sotto, another ally of Mr. Aquino, said senators lacking postponement "have the edge." But they have only four session days until Congress adjourns on June 8.

Marcos said he could have just cut the bill but didn't do it. "It's too important to let it lapse," he said.

Marcos and two other senators against postponement—Juan Miguel Zubiri and Francis Escudero—said the postponement was likely to be questioned at the Supreme Court.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo rejected a proposal to proceed with the Aug. 8 elections and synchronize the next elections with the 2013 midterm national elections.

Cheaper polls

Commission on Elections Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. said the Comelec's meeting yesterday on the postponement of the ARMM elections for the ARMM, which would cost P606 million.

Brillantes said Comelec hasn't signed any contract for automation because Congress was still deliberating on whether or not to postpone the elections.

Teresita "Ging" Deles, peace adviser to Mr. Aquino, and Ronald Llamas, the President's political adviser, defended Palace support for postponement.

Wednesday, however, is not going up on the postponement, according to Edwin Lacierda, one of several spokespersons of the President.

"The Senate has not acted on the bill with finality. Let's wait for further developments," Lacierda said.

Abigail Valte, another Palace spokesperson, said the Aquino administration notes "broader opportunity."

Valte said the President had met with ARMM governors and officials on Wednesday to discuss the progress of efforts to have the elections postponed.

Relying on LP

Mr. Aquino, she said, asked for the officials' support for postponement.

"While we understand there are several senators who have been consistently voicing out their objections to it, there are also senators who are said to be supporting the postponement," Valte said in a press briefing.

Malacañang is relying mainly on the support of senators belonging to the Liberal Party, the ruling party since Mr. Aquino was elected President.

LP senators met on the sidelines where they were served to lunch early this month by the President. Aside from meeting with his party mates that included Senators Drilon, Sotto, Francis Pangilinan and TJ Cayetano, Mr. Aquino met last with Senators Lacson and Antonio Trillanes IV to seek their support for postponement.

Valte said Malacañang will continue its efforts to "convince [senators] to see our side of things" as she noted the presence of Robredo, Deles and Llamas at yesterday's Senate hearing.

DEFENDERS of a Palace campaign to postpone elections in ARMM, led by Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, were at the Senate to try to convince senators that postponement is part of reforms in ARMM. STORY

Fear of MILF rebs prompts Maguindanao evacuations

COTABATO CITY—Residents of at least four villages in Datu Unsay town, Maguindanao, have been fleeing their homes at the sight of heavily armed Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels since last week, the town's mayor said on Tuesday.

Mayor Sahabar Ebrahim said residents of Living, Matiwang, Maslak and Dimid four removed clashes between soldiers and the rebels and decided to leave their homes for safer areas.

Ebrahim said local officials had asked the residents to return home because the rebels were there "to hunt down suspected kidnappers."

"I was told by the MILF leadership that their armed members were not to operate against kidnappers," Ebrahim said.

Kabuntalan had been cleared as a haven of armed men, who had ordered several government persons from this city to recent months.

Those included the group that seized Jerky Yap, a grocery store owner here, on April 1.

Yap was released in Kabuntalan by her kidnappers as soldiers and MILF rebels, who had operated under an agreement, were closing in on their hideaway.

Ebrahim said the new MILF operation in Kabuntalan started after the May 24 release of Maguindanao trader Angelica Jolene Chew Hontiveros-Baraquel.

"Residents there should not be alarmed. This is our continuing effort to rout other suspects in the Hontiveros abduction," said Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military affairs chief. Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Power-up your potential.

John Robert Powers

Personality Development • Social Skills
Corporate Workshops • Acting
Modeling • Communications • English

Call 892.9511 (Makati)
927.0465 (Quezon City)
659.0052 (Alabang)
jobnrobertpowers.com

June-July Classes for International Students.

AdCongress22 Online Registration Starts Today

The online registration system for AdCongress22 is officially up and running starting today, June 1. Interested can now register to take part in the most important event in the advertising industry through www.adcongress.com.ph and go on to attend AdCongress22 in the Cartilo Waterpoint Complex (CWC), Carmona Cav. on November 30 to 03, 2011.

This year's theme, "Change the Game", has inspired various innovations in the ad congress. Using an online registration system is among one of its most significant developments.

"Technology has made a lot of our work easier today and it is the right time for online registration in the ad congress," says AdCongress22 administration committee chair Ben Fernando.

"Our industry projects itself to be dynamic and speed-conscious – leading how Communications can be executed. Thus, using technology for registration is one of the ways to be more efficient and professional."

The online registration system is made possible with the technical expertise of Gamboa Summer Day (Makarim's team, who) tends to supervise in managing the online registration of thousands of participants in the annual Ironman 70.3 Philippines triathlon, Summit Water Corsair Marathon and Ultimate Wake Championship in AdCongress22. For more specific requirements coming from the advertising industry, the Cartilo team has even made adjustments to the system.

"We asked the team for adjustments to be able to accommodate requests from our colleagues for cash or check payment instead of simply through credit card, ATM debit card or bank transfers," Fernando says. The AdCongress22 online registration system opens today after months of collaboration.

"It's very convenient," says Fernando.

"You can register as a delegate, book your hotel and even get on an airport transfer service or reserve a parking slot at CWC for your own car all from the comfort of your office or home."

All arrangements needed to become a delegate can be completed online in the official ad congress website at www.adcongress.com.ph. The ad congress fee – **P15,500 special rate for regular delegates who register only from now until June 30 and P8,500 for students at academe** – can also be conveniently settled through credit card or ATM debit card payment online. Cash or check payment must be delivered to the ad congress partner at the office of the Advertising Board of the Philippines.

With online payment, registration would be validated almost instantly through confirmation e-mail, and the delegate can immediately proceed to the next step: choosing a hotel and making actual arrangements. In contrast, cash or check payments must wait for validation from the ad congress partner to the system before getting the delegate confirmation e-mail and access to choose a hotel.

"The online registration system has its own server and we have emailed considerable bandwidth so traffic should not be a problem," says Ruwel Loyola, head of administration registration for AdCongress22.

"We have also provided for a back-up via system redundancy as the possibility of the system getting busy or failing is almost nil. Worst case scenario, the registration system will just act as a data collector and all payments will be made offline. But this is a very remote possibility."

The AdCongress22 administration committee, in cooperation with the Cartilo local government, has prepared the online registration system diligently to accommodate and secure all users. So be a game-changer. Log on to www.adcongress.com.ph and register now!

The P15,500 special rate for regular ad congress delegates is available only from today until June 30. Start registering to take advantage of the discount.

2 deaths: ex-DAR chief, ex-justice

DAGUPAN CITY – Former Agrarian Reform Minister Conrado Estrella III died in his sleep at the Manila Sentosa in Manila on Tuesday. He was 65.

A family aide said Estrella underwent heart bypass several years ago but he had no major ailments before his death.

Estrella, also former Pangasinan governor, served as agrarian reform minister under the administration of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his political ally and friend.

His late public appointment, in Pangasinan was on January 10 this year when he attended the oathtaking of the Lingayen Gulf Leading. He was the grandfather of former Pangasinan Rep. Conrado Estrella III and Alexis Rep. Robert Raymund Estrella.

Another prominent individual, Bogalalo Wantilong, former Abra governor, died on Friday due to multiple organ failure.

Wantilong was also a former Court of Appeals justice and helped draft the 1987 Constitution.

Rolando Inquirer Bardaloza, Inquirer Northern Luzon and Shannon Inquirer Macquisay

TOURISM ADVISORY

Pinatubo lake tours now dangerous

By Jun Matig
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—A Department of Tourism (DOT) official has asked outdoor enthusiasts to postpone their trips to Mt. Pinatubo's crater lake due to the rainy season because heavy rains may trigger the collapse of the volcano's crater wall.

Rosalie Tiotuico, DOT director in Central Luzon, said he is concerned about the safety and security of local and foreign tourists visiting the volcano's crater following an announcement by the weather bureau that several typhoons would hit the country in the coming months.

"Many other portions of the crater's inner wall are in danger of collapsing, as indicated by huge cracks and steep slopes. Collapse may be triggered once heavy rain falls within the area," Tiotuico said in a travel advisory.

He said if adventure seekers cannot postpone their trek to Mt. Pinatubo until October, they must "observe safety precautions," especially if they plan to swim in the crater lake.

"In addition, thermal seepages on the eastern crater lake shoreline are risky and may cause scalding or burns upon contact. Moderate to strong wind will also affect the stability of weather conditions and boats, near the breached area never with Mamasan outlet," he said.

He said there are "frequent occurrences of rock fall and landslide" along the crater wall. "Such active occurrences are evidenced by the existence of significant fresh talus (loose rocks) deposits along the crater lake shoreline," he added.

Tiotuico said tourists should consult travel advisories and check weather conditions in areas close to Mt. Pinatubo issued by local government or the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

"The rule of thumb is that whenever there is a typhoon brewing, it is best to keep out of harm's way," he said.

The 2-km-wide crater lake of Mt. Pinatubo was formed after the volcano's eruption in 1991. It has become a popular destination due to its turquoise water that is suitable for swimming, kayaking and boat rides.

But the crater lake contains enough water to flood communities in Botolan, Zambales. In 1992, residents of Sitio Iba in Iba, Zambales province evacuated after experts said the collapse of the crater wall was imminent due to accumulated rainwater that reached "dangerous levels."

To avoid the collapse of the crater wall that year, excess water was drained from the lake through a channel dug up by the air and provincial of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

FROM the deadly eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991 come this lake and canyons around it.

Award awaits cop who saved 2 kids in bus hostage case

By Marivic Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The Laguna police on Tuesday recommended that PO2 Eduardo Santiago be declared a "Bayaning Pulis" awardee after he saved two children during a knife-wielding man on a bus in Pampanga on Monday.

Aside from the award, which is given to police officers who display gallantry in the line of duty, Santiago is also recommended for automatic promotion to the rank of police officer 3, said Laguna police director Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz.

Aside from this, the Laguna police officer would also attend medical help for victims who is assigned to the San Pedro police station in the province.

On Monday, Santiago was on his way to his hometown of Batasan-bag, Pangasinan, when a man boarded the bus carrying pulled out along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) in Apalit, Pampanga, as there was a hostage-taking going on in another bus.

Everything happened so fast, as if "in a count from 1 to 10, I would not have made it to 8," said Santiago, 34, who has been in the service for eight years.

But he later realized it actually took more than an hour, including the drive from Apalit to Malolos.

After all, behind him was a man sticking a 14-inch knife to the neck of a boy, making him drive hours of his concentration.

"We saw that another bus had stopped. Our driver thought they were stranded because all their passengers were outside," he said.

But the commuters of the other bus rushed to them and announced that a man, later identified as Jesley Brito, 40, took his 6-year old Carla Sabrina and 3-year-old Mig Jayle Bautista hostages and demanded that somebody drive the bus for him to Sto. Domingo.

"I had no idea where that Sto. Domingo was. He also wouldn't tell me," he said. But the call of duty even when in civilian clothes as he was on leave, prompted him to take the wheel and do something.

Santiago left his phone number to the driver of the bus he was riding and instructed him to alert nearby police stations. He never introduced himself as cop.

"I kept on talking to him (Brito) the whole time, telling him to calm down and think about his family (but he said nothing but ordered me to drive)," he said.

He said he was hoping someone would tell him and he help to calm down.

"I was trying to delay everything until reinforcements come and do the negotiations. We were even cursing at 10 to 20 kph on the NLEx," he said.

By chance, his phone did ring and it was his wife, Jenny, 34, who called him.

"I told her I was a hostage and asked her to send me hard pencil and ask for help," he said. He said the hostage-taker could not make out their conversation because they spoke in Pangasinan.

They were in Mabalacat when Brito noticed other police patrol cars following them. Santiago said this confirmed the hostage-taker who appeared to have lost his mind.

"From the driver's mirror, I saw him come to me and wait me on my side," he said.

He said he was still driving but with one hand warding off the attacks. He said Brito was about to stab him the fourth time when he saw all balance, giving Santiago the chance to draw his gun and fire.

Brito died of a gunshot wounded in the head while Santiago suffered seven stab wounds in the shoulder and hands. The children suffered minor wounds.

"We are faced every day with violent, similar situations but this one was the most difficult so far. I am just glad a little [pain had saved lives," said Santiago.

PO2 EDUARDO Santiago received aid from several stab wounds after saving two children on a bus in Pampanga from a knife-wielding hostage-taker.

Bus operators told: Pick up passengers only in terminals

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Transport firms serving provincial routes should pick up passengers only in designated terminals to avoid hostage-taking and other crimes on buses, a Philippine National Police official said.

Chief Supt. Agustinus Cruz Jr., PNP spokesperson, issued this reminder on the heels of a hostage-taking case in Pampanga on Monday where an off-duty policeman shot and killed the hostage-taker and saved two children. The case was the second in the province since 2008.

Cruz said in summary, private security agencies can inspect and search packages, luggage and hand-carried bags, and frisk passengers.

"That way they can determine if a passenger is carrying firearms or other weapons," he said by phone on Tuesday.

'Rule of thumb'

But there measures, he said, are merely "rule of thumb."

While police "have operational procedures on handling and preventing such situations, Cruz noted that bus companies have "no hand and face rules" to go by.

Security agencies usually do the job of escorting passengers riding bus sand.

A policy must to collect passengers along highways can help them arrive in recipients, he said.

Police help avoid crimes on buses by holding conference agents. They ride buses at random and their gains counseled the travelers.

Police also put up help desks in bus stations, especially on holidays when many commuters go to the provinces.

Painful lesson

These measures are similar to those devised in March 2008 by the Central Luzon police and 10 bus companies two months after a security guard killed a man, wounded another and held hostage seven women aboard a Genesis bus in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

Cruz said the efforts of PO2 Eduardo Santiago in saving two children, aged 3 and 5, who were held hostage by Jesley Brito inside an Alamodan City-bound bus in Pampanga on Monday were "definitely a good job that the (PNP) is proud of."

Santiago, who was off duty and was in shirt and denim pants, was a passenger in another Five Star bus that stopped along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) to help the first bus that was thought to have suffered engine trouble.

He convinced Brito, 40, to release the passengers, confiscated and deliver Santiago took control of the bus when Brito asked to be taken to Sto. Domingo town in Angeles City. The policeman, however, drove the bus to Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Senior Supt. Sheldon Jacildone, chief of the police Highway Patrol Group in Central Luzon, said Santiago "showed courage" when they reached Mabalacat.

In the struggle that ensued, Santiago hit a quarry truck in front of the bus but managed to bring the vehicle back on its lane and, with a server firearm, shot and killed Brito.—Nestor Ocejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Militants tag fisheries law as useless

By Cielito T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—There has been no improvement in the lives of millions of fishermen in the country despite the existence of a 13-year-old law that governs fishing ramsewerk, according to a study prepared by two groups and to be submitted to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The Center for Environmental Concern (CEC) and the fishermen's group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mangingisdang ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said despite the Philippine Fisheries Law of 1998, there has been an increase in the lives of more than nine million people directly and indirectly involved in fishing.

The two groups said a study using technology and equipment.

Quoting the study, the two groups used in a press statement that Filipino fishermen still use backward fishing gear like small fishing boats, hook and line, nets and other technology-unfriendly equipment.

The groups quoted figures from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) that showed poverty was worst among fishermen, according to the groups, said at least 22.7 percent of fishermen and other aquatic poverty compared to 11.7 percent of farmers.

Gerry Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, said previous studies showed fishermen and fishing industry workers nationwide earn an average of P150-P300 a day, way below the minimum wage set by government for workers in rural areas.

The 1998 law said Corpuz, even fail to intrude by commercial fishing vessels into municipal waters to the detriment of fishermen.

Corruption, CEC and the fishfolk said, has also eaten up the budget intended for the fishermen sector. They said at least P500-million appropriated every year for municipal fishermen under the Municipal Fisheries Grant fund are unutilized.

While the law appropriates P250 million a year to develop commercial fishing vessels, it allots only P50 million for investments in aquaculture, the groups said.

Fishermen have no access to state funds that would help them acquire better equipment and upgrade their skills.

Duterte brings wounded female rebel to hospital

DAVAO CITY—Vice Mayor Rodrigo Duterte yesterday personally fetched from a hospital in Bislig, Surigao del Sur, a female New People's Army (NPA) rebel, who was wounded in a clash with government troops in Lianga, Surigao del Sur on Sunday.

Two other wounded rebels had to be left behind because they were not fit to be transported.

Duterte, who used a private plane in transporting Nelson Orbe Reyes, a resident of Calinan District, to a government hospital here, said the NPA rebel sought his help to have her transferred to this city. Orbe Reyes will be treated for a gunshot wound in the abdomen.

Duterte described his move as an act of "goodwill and reciprocation to the previous good gesture of the rebels when they released four prisoners of war when we visited Bicol."

Maj. Jacob Cabigquis, spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao command, said only Orbe Reyes was transported because two others—Jason Cadiam and Ariel Andracan—were in serious condition.

"The truce could do them more harm than good," Cabigquis said. He said Orbe Reyes' fate now lies in the hands of the police. Jeffrey Tupas and Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

Female pug Cruz rallies past Myanmar bet

DAYANG, China — Lone Filipino female fighter Josebet Cruz overcame a sluggish start to secure an 11-8 victory over Myanmar's Nang Seng Ohn Oo in the China Open boxing tournament. Cruz, the 57-kilo tall final from Occidental Mindoro, trailed 3-1 in the first round but picked up the pace in the second to push over at 11-8. She next faces China's Ren Jiancuo, the world champion women's welterweight, in the semi-finals. Also in action are Annie Maestre in the light heavyweight and Gregorio Rosal Gomez.

Editor Teddyboy B. Melencio
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiong

SPORTS

Ted Jacob Tordesillas
Inquirer.net sports@inquirer.net
Mobile Desk: Tel/SMS 09189751111
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
E-mail: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph

PH, Jordan set Group A showdown

By Cedrik F. Tupaz

SMART GILAS Pilipinas and ASU Jordan hammered out contrasting victories at the Philsports Arena last night to set the stage for an intriguing showdown for the Group A head going into the quarterfinals of the Hilton-Asian Championship Cup.

Ranged against a no-shoot Iraqi team in Group A with 68kg Jordan, which entered to a 107-77 rout of the Hala Lumpur Mission Dragons of Malaysia.

Mark Barroca and Chris Tiu joined forces in an early fourth-quarter burst as the Mindanao recovered from a halftime third period to move within a hitch of scoring in Group A.

"We were not playing well defensively but we were hustling it out defensively and that's how we got our points," said former Gilas coach Rajko Toroman.

Deandre Hunsberger fired all of his eight points in the second quarter to help Smart Gilas build a 47-30 halftime.

But the Mindanaos suddenly were cold in the third period, making just two field goals, allowing the Iraqis, led by import Ali Al-Dhahir, to trim the gap to two, 53-51.

Robbed by foul trouble early on, Barroca watched to ignite the Mindanaos, finding Tiu for a triple to open the fourth quarter before burning a bank shot to put them ahead, 64-62.

Gilas will face Applied Science University of Jordan tonight for the top ranking in Group A.

The top-seeding means a lighter opponent in the quarterfinal round, which will most likely be Al-Ahlaa of Syria, a 93-63 winner over Al-Shabbab of UAE in the other pool-A matchup.

Meanwhile, Al-Riyadi of Lebanon turned to its unrivaled guard duo El Ghatit in the outer period to outlast Qatar's Al Rayyan, 79-73, in Group B.

JORDAN'S Hadrat Mohammad soars over the Al Qurayna defense in last night's Fiba Asia Champions Cup at the Philsports Arena in Pasig.

Mondilla gets PH Am top seeding

By Ray Luarca

COCOY MONDILLA settled for a two-over par 74 yesterday but still sealed the No. 1 seeding for today's first round of the 2011 Philippine Amateur Golf championship at Wack Wack's East course.

Hitting a low 34 on the front nine, the Bohol native struggled still at 40 coming home to post a 147 total and beat just-sized Baguio's Jerome Ramos by two strokes in the event, presented by Rancho Bravo and SOG Land.

Nursing that his victory in the junior edition of the tournament two weeks ago at Alabang was no fluke, Zamboanga was the first player to reach par 71 for a 149 aggregate.

King Mohamed secured a 75 for a 154 that left him tied with another junior campaigner, Justin Quibuc, who shot 81 up 83.

Mondilla will be tangling with Ranil Lorenzo in the first round of match play with the Alabang ace in the PM. Intended qualifying 32nd overall after shooting an 80-82–168, the same score submitted by Mohamed Salikin after a 79-89.

Ramparts will take on Salikin, who ranked 31st.

Mohamed and Quibuc will tackle Ronnie Llenos and Manfred Gungon, respectively. Llenos and Gungon both finished with 167s following rounds of 87 and 84.

Andre Uson toiled the classification phase of Sunday's play after firing a 78 for a 152 total.

Veteran tournamentalist Boots Archue, who shot a 73 for 153, finished in second while Sarah Medes gained the No. 3 ranking after an 82 for 156.

Mondilla, winner of the event two years ago as his home course in Del Monte, is targeting a personal over scoring.

Tall rookies tipped to steal show in Ateneo-La Salle duel

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO'S Kirk Long drives off La Salle's Joshua Webb and Ferdinand Ilarde in last year's UAAP battles.

PHOTO BY NOEL PABALATE

PATRIOT ROOKIES get a taste of senior's fiercest rivalry in the first summer clash between Ateneo and La Salle in the PBSA Flying V Pinoy Preseason Premier Cup on Saturday.

Although the spotlight is expected to fall on Ateneo's Nonoy Baclao and Xavier Pamilar, the towering new recruits of the Blue Eagles and the Green Archers will steal attention in the 4 p.m. blockbuster battle at the PBSA Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Archers have hooked up with Arnold Van Opstal, a 6-foot-8 former Junior Archer in 6-10 Calebaan Bro'Dell Nunnery

Garcia: PH SEAG hopes burn bright

GARCIA

By Cedrik Tayo

THE PHILIPPINES' bid in this year's Southeast Asian Games will be more formidable than in the past two meetings of the biennial meet.

Philippine Sports Commission chief Richie Garcia yesterday expressed optimism of emulating the Top 5 in the

BRITAIN'S Andy Murray fires a return to Serbian Viktor Troicki in a match point posted due to darkness. AP

Rafa arranges Robin rematch

PARIS—Rafael Nadal improved his record at Roland Garros to 43-3, beating Ivan Ljubicic, 7-5, 6-3, 6-3, Monday to reach the quarterfinals of the French Open.

The five-time champion was not troubled on Court Philippe Chatrier, and the win kept him on course to equal Bjorn Borg's record of six titles on the Parisian clay.

"I have improved since the tournament started," said Nadal, who was pushed to five sets in the first round. "I'm able to play better and I'm going to continue on this path."

Novak Djokovic also had a successful day, even though he wasn't scheduled to play. The second-seeded Serb trashed the semifinals of the men's wheelchair competition, defeating Fabrice Santoro of France 6-1, 6-1.

Djokovic, who will not be credited with a victory because Nagata withdrew, is after his own records.

If he wins his semifinal match, he would equal John McEnroe's Open era record of 42-0 for the best start to a tennis season and clinch the No. 1 ranking. With three more wins, the second-seeded Serb will match the record of an straight wins set by Guillermo Vilas in 1977.

Quarterpoint won the last four games to win 12th-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 7-6 (3), 7-5 and reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal in two years. AP

LeBron takes another crack at first NBA crown

MIAMI—LeBron James' much-discussed move to Miami almost one year ago had one driving motive—to win an NBA title.

Now James, a two-time MVP, Most Valuable Player who decided that title might never come in Cleveland, will get his chance as he and fellow Heat superstars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh lead Miami into the NBA title series starting on Tuesday against the Dallas Mavericks.

For James, it's not just about justifying his move to Miami, it's also about regrouping the memory of San Antonio's four-game sweep of his Cavaliers in the 2007 finals.

IT all boils down to this for Miami's Big Three of (from left) Chris Bosh, Dwyane Wade and LeBron James.

"I go back and look at some of those games, I look at myself and say, 'You are a much better player than you were then,'" James said.

MIA TODAY
(AEC CDP)
Score — Series
vs Mavs
Game 1, MIA 9 p.m.
Replay at 11 p.m. on Studio 23

Long labeled one of the NBA's great, compared to some quarters to Michael Jordan, James' numerous early accolades mean little without a title.

"He's very satisfying at this point," James said of the Heat's progress to the finals. "We want more." AFP

Thailand in Fiba freezer

IN HUDDLE

Beth Go

YOU MUST be wondering why Malaysia's Sivagnam Empiran are representing the Asean basketball league (ABL) in the ongoing Fiba Asia Champions Cup, instead of the champion Thailand Slamdunkers, who lost the defending title to the Philippine Patriots in the ABL finals last February.

An ABL insider explained that, like the Philippines some years back, Thailand was suspended by the Fiba and consequently banned from participating in Fiba-sanctioned tournaments. "I was just informed how long Thailand's suspension is.

Being the women-up, the limit—we should have explained the limitations in the tournament being played at the Philippine Arena until June 5, but Fiba has rules about unless a country is 'in' organized basketball activities."

"That's the reason why second runner-up Malaysia represented the ABL," said my source.

• • •

The Wagons are monitored by former Dazzler-Gulf assistant coach Ariel Vanguardia, who has streamlined and trimmed down a thirty-man pool to a final cut of 12 for the Asian Championship.

Ricky Yusi Wi'll make a bid for the PBA franchise "because MVP wanted it. He believes in the PBA, that's why we're here."

But the coverage of the Fiba-Asia tournament could very well be a boon additional for the coverage of the PBA games in Greece.

"It is also a good motivation to get the state-of-the-art equipment we recently purchased like an HD one," Ricky said.

• • •

EDSUPREME Reaction from a reader on my last column: "Sorry to disagree with you, Michell, but the PBA's multi-cross move referring to its last franchise's feasible has never been a good sport. I was there during the incident you related. You forgot to mention that he kicked the ball before his referred that the practice game with another PBA team be stopped, with a reminder to go and with the opponent leading by 19 points.

Escueta fires off two-title drive with twin victories

JOSEPH ESCUETA kicked off his title drive in two divisions with a pair of straight-set victories in the 39th Sports Foundation Rings Bonanza Philippine Badminton Ranking System (PBARS) tournament yesterday at the Pasay Badminton Center in Barefoot City.

Escueta, seeking a second straight championship in the Open 19 category, toppled Eric Odilman's Go Fajardo, 21-7, 21-1, to lead the charge of the fancied bets in the early going of the tournament serving as the second leg of a four-stage nationwide circuit.

Earlier, Escueta, one of the national team members who saw action in last week's Sudirman Cup, trounced Alfred-Ferro's Joshua Montevirdes, 21-9, 21-11, to launch his campaign in the Open division.

Mafer Akaba, the U-13 singles champion, turned back Golden Eberde Bonaventure's Miguel Ramos, 21-11, 21-15, to open his bid in the U-15 division of the P1 million event, a project of Vice President Jejomar Binay, Rep. Alfredo Lim and businessman-sportsman Manny Pangilinan.

Also in the U-19 men's singles, Paul Makasa of Iloilo Wilster Badminton Club defeated Joseph Lopez, 21-14, 19-21, 21-16; Clarence Fillet of Cebu downed Adrian Hechtelmann, 21-12, 21-5; while Miguel Leonardo of ATC/Ply powerhouse Luigi Isaac, 21-7, 21-9.

Kevin Cardunar of PH Team/Victor topped Theodore Ca, 21-9, 21-9; Paula Infante of WWGBA held off Lianne Osorio, 21-18, 21-11; Christian Emerson Pilbankers defeated Abraham Magsaysay, 21-15, 21-12; while Gemzi Ilhayan of PH Team/Victor outplayed Gwenneth Ca, 21-9, 21-7.

Also in the U-17 girls' division, meanwhile, were new Raphael Swann, 21-19, 21-7; Robert Alvarez of Jaguar Badminton Academy ousted Jack Gerard Collarin, 21-17, 21-14; while JC Clarito and Jose Mariano of La Salle saw off Jeff Monson, 21-9, 21-6, and John Medina, 21-10, 21-13, respectively.

For details, log on to www.pbars.com.

Airforce Rider, Global Smartmatic meet for title; Azkals vs UFL-All stars set

THE United Football League champion will battle Wednesday night when defending titlist Air Force Rider and upstart Global Smartmatic square off for the first time this season at the University of Makati pitch.

The duel between the league's top two teams was supposed to be played Sunday night but the poor condition of the pitch caused by the rain forced the league to reschedule the clash.

As it stands, Air Force only needs a draw to claim its second straight title. Global, on the other hand, has to convince itself to win the match and at the same time hope Air Force loses to another side.

The league is set aside as the tournament's last as it will not be resuming later at another interesting match that will pit the 2011 All-Stars against the Philippine Azkals on Sunday, June 5 at UMak.

Tickets for the match are priced at P500 and will be available at LBC branches in SM North Edsa, Sinsuna, SM Megamall, Market Market, Greenhills, Ortigas, Alabang, SM Manila, Araneta Coliseum and Cubao.

The proceeds from the game will go to the Azkals, who are preparing for the 2012 Suzuki Cup in Southeast Asian championship. Hanko Polkinghorne, Phil Younghusband, Daisuke Sato, Chieffo Caligdong, Simon Greatwich, Emelio Caligdong, Dennis Cagara, Roland Muller, Neil Etheridge, Aly Borromeo, Rob Gier, Anton del Rosario, Jason Sweeney, Jeffrey Christiaens, Jerry Lucena, Ian Araneta

The addresses to beat
for a standout mobile lifestyle.

Be the master of Manila's universe. At the launch-oriented **Suntrust Adriatico Gardens** and **Suntrust Parkview**, unlimited mobility is your ultimate reward. Your matchless location puts the LRT-1 nearby, as everything in the city – from top schools and offices to exciting shopping centers – are yours to command. With both communities selling out fast, there's no time like now to claim a unit of your own. Choose a Suntrust address today – and have the power to really go places.

Adriatico Gardens

- Town-based gated neighborhood across from Harrison Plaza and steps away from Robinsons Ermita
- Quick access to the LRT-1 Quirino Station, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Manila Bay, De La Salle University and UP Manila
- Two choices of executive studios and two-bedroom units
- Ground-level pandesal deck with swimming pools, a pond lounge and outdoor spa, playground, barbecue area, zen garden and public court

Acacia Tower 80% SOLD

Magnolia Tower 55% SOLD

Dahlia Tower 100% SOLD

Lily Tower NEWLY LAUNCHED

SUNTRUST PARKVIEW

- Six-tower gated community across from SM City Manila and five minutes away from Manila City Hall
- Near the LRT-1 Central Station, the Nicky Aquino Quezon Bridge ferry station, Malate, Intramuros and the Manila university belt
- Offers executive studios and units with one to three bedrooms
- Ground-level play area with a swimming pool complex, park deck, jogging paths, an outdoor fitness station, children's playground, meditation area, landscaped courtyard, plaza and boardwalk

Suntrust Parkview Information Center
2F Roy Sevilla of the Philippines Bldg.,
Concepcion St., Ermita, Manila (across from SM City Manila)
E-mail: sales@suntrust.com.ph

Tele: 494-6105 · 494-6358 · 494-6406

The happiest days of your life begin here.

SUNTRUST
www.suntrust.com.ph

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexandra S. Stuart
Mobile Alert: | Website: | E-mail:
Tell us your feedback:

DID YOU KNOW

OF THE TOTAL 4,836 reported dengue cases in the National Capital Region from Jan. 1 to April 2 this year, around 47 percent or 913 cases were from Quezon City. This was 14 percent higher than the 809 cases reported in the city during the same period in 2010.
Zybeth Bonifacio Inquirer Research

Another dental clinic robbed in QC

POYCELAO Inggan positively identifies one of the trucks found inside a warehouse in Taguig City as the one which was stolen from him at gunpoint by hijackers.

Police say dentist was also molested by robber

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ANOTHER dental clinic was robbed by a man who also molested the dentist on Monday evening in Quezon City, according to the police.

Just last week, a man made off with P200,000 in cash and valuables from a dental clinic in Paco, Manila. Sex content with his host, he also raped one of the two dentists on duty.

PO3 Sarida Tuvanes of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Station 9 said that Monday's robbery happened on Aurora Road in Project 3, Quezon City.

According to him, the man came into the clinic at around 5 p.m. and complained of a toothache. At that time, the only people in the clinic were the dentist and her assistant, also a woman.

Tuvanes added that after the robber had his teeth examined and fixed by the dentist, he took out a gun from his bag.

He then ordered the dentist to lie on the dental chair while her assistant was made to crouch on the floor beside the chair.

The police said the robber tied the victims' hands and then assaulted the dentist for taking strikes.

Based on the dentist's report, she lost P4,000 and $300 in cash, the clinic's earnings for the day which amounted to P8,000, a purchased clock, four cell phones, a wristwatch, a pair of diamond earrings, a necklace and a bracelet.

She added that her assistant also lost some cash and belongings.

Based on the police report, after the robber committed the clinic, he started molesting the dentist.

At one point, he masturbated in front of the two women. He only stopped when one of the two women's cell phone started ringing. He then quickly left the clinic.

According to the police, there have been several cases in Quezon City of female dentists who were raped in their clinics by a man who also robbed them.

More stolen trucks found at 'chop shop' in Taguig

By Mike Frialde

ELEVEN trucks have recovered three more delivery trucks at a warehouse on Daang Maharlika in Tipas, Taguig City, where a truck that had been forcibly taken from its driver was found last Friday.

Chief Insp. Jenny Tecson, the spokesperson of the Southern Police District (SPD), said two of the three recovered trucks were positively identified by their owners yesterday.

Tecson added that the police also found various spare parts believed to have been taken from other stolen trucks.

Earlier, SPD deputy director for operations Senior Supt. Dennis Garon said that investigators would list down the identification numbers of the trucks found inside the compound. These would then be compared with the Highway Patrol Group's list of stolen vehicles.

He added that the recovery of the trucks and spare parts indicated that the warehouse was a "chop-shop" for stolen vehicles.

The warehouse operated by Arsibal Metal Recycling Corp. was discovered because one of the stolen trucks had a global positioning system device which allowed its owner to track it.

21 hurt in twin mishaps on Parañaque City road

TWO COLLISIONS took place yesterday on the stretch of Coastal Road in Parañaque City which left 21 persons injured.

Traffic investigator PO2 Lyndon Guerrero said the first happened at around 6 a.m. and involved a cargo bus and a six-wheel cargo truck.

Eight people were hurt in the mishap which started when the truck bus to brakes and hit the rear of the bus at the intersection of Sitio Roxas and Coastal Road.

One of those injured was Princess Magdael, 31, who was brought by bystanders to San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City.

Hours later, a passenger jeepney slammed into three other vehicles when it made a sudden stop in front of a toll booth on the Manila Cavite Expressway.

The jeepney driver, Antonio Bautista Jr., said he lost control of his vehicle when it crashed into the jeepney due then collided with cars other vehicles.

As a result, 13 people were injured, investigator SPO2 Cristino Sebas said. They were taken to San Juan de Dios Hospital for treatment. With L. Morales

Women in their 40s:
What to do when HAIRLOSS strikes

Life begins at 40. So can HAIRLOSS. From having lush, lustrous locks to falling, and thinning hair can make you look older, feel self-conscious and insecure. No woman wants to go through the hairloss experience at any age, and that includes Interior Designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes.

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Tessa started suffering from thinning hair in her 40s. "I've always loved changing my hair color. But after a while, it took a toll on my hair. It got damaged and 'dead.' And after giving birth, I noticed that it also thinned out. I needed to find a solution to revive my locks right away," she says.

What are the causes of hairloss? Genetics and hormonal imbalance are two of the most common causes of hairloss in women. Other factors can be: stress, childbirth, poor nutrition, frequent hair coloring, curling, certain diseases and some medications. But when hairloss is diagnosed correctly and treated properly, a normal, healthy hair condition can be restored.

What to do when hairloss strikes? Go to Svenson for professional help. At Svenson, trichologist Hair and scalp analysis will properly assess the condition of your hair and recommend a personalized hair recovery program suited to your hair's needs. Unlike over-the-counter remedies, Svenson offers technologically advanced treatments that deeply penetrate the follicles to fight the causes of hairloss, control thinning hair and boost hair growth. The result: thicker, healthier and denser hair.

ULTRA HAIR REINFORCER – deep-cleanses scalp, creates a healthier environment for growth. Hair becomes shinier, more lush.

ULTRA-LUSH VOLUMIZER – quickly controls and stops hair fall, helps restore original luskness, volume and softness.

SCALP-CORRECTIVE – eliminates dandruff, flaking and other irritations, returns scalp to a normal state, prevents treatment hairloss.

Tessa was impressed with how the treatments at Svenson solved her hairloss. "Svenson's treatments really work! My hair is thicker and looks vibrant again. People keep telling me that I don't look like I'm in my late 40s. I'm telling you – looking your best starts with the hair."

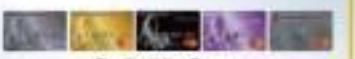
Call today for a FREE private consultation.
893-HAIR (4247) CEBU: 234-0851

EASTWEST BANK

or

iApply
iTransfer
iPad FREE!

Apply for an
EastWest Bank Credit Card
with Balance Transfer at
0.99%* now!



The Credit You Deserve.

Click www.eastwestbank.com
Call 888-1700
Visit any EastWest Bank branch

Cops rescue teenager from Parañaque sweatshop

By DJ Yap

OPERATIVES of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) rescued a 16-year-old girl during a raid on a factory in Ilaya, Barangay City, where workers allegedly being locked up and subjected to forced labor to pay off their debts.

CIDG director Chief Supt. Samuel D. Pagdilao Jr. said the...

...to Transnational Crime Division (ATCD) operatives raided the compound of Ultra Design Manufacturing Co. at #149 Juanita de Leon St. in San Dionisio, Parañaque City, on Monday night.

The teenage girl from Davao Del Sur, identified only as Arlyn to protect her identity, was rescued during the operation.

Ultra Design, a manufacturing company of hospital equipment and wheelchairs, is owned by 47-year-old businessman Rodolfo Chua Ong and his wife Amanda. Ong was also accused by the CIDG-ATCD for violation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

CIDG-ATCD chief Senior Supt. Gilbert Sosa said similar charges would be filed against Amanda.

Arlyn's lie to Cruz, who was tagged as the one who recruited the victim in Bukidnon province, and Emeliada Barrientos, owner of the recruitment firm. All three are still being pursued by the CIDG.

Sosa said the rescue operation, which occurred at about 9:30 p.m., stemmed from the complaints lodged by victims Jory M. Cortez, Ismael Limit and three other former employees of the company.

The victims told CIDG investigators that they suffered verbal and physical abuse at the hands of the owners "who looked down on us and forced them to work 12 hours a day to pay off their involuntary debt" starting in January.

Sosa said debt bondage falls under qualified human trafficking, a nonbailable offense.

Investigators disclosed that the victims, along with several others, were being locked up in one of the workers' quarters inside the company compound. Cortez and Limit were released only by the owners after they paid off their debts.

Sosa said all victims, including the minor, were recruited from Don Carlos, Bukidnon, by Dy in Cruz.

The recruiter allegedly promised them jobs in Manila that included free meals and accommodation and made them sign a document showing they would get P3,000 in monthly salaries with no other benefits.

MMDA to turn Metro concrete jungle into garden

By Miko L. Morales

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has asked Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) for help in implementing a tree planting program in the Metro.

"I have requested the assistance of Ayala Land Inc. considering [its] expertise on replanting as evidenced in the landscaping of their properties such as the Ayala Triangle," MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino said in a statement yesterday.

Earlier, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it would support the MMDA initiative by providing the agency with saplings and other plants, he added.

According to Tolentino, among the roads the MMDA was saving for its regreening project was Edsa.

At the same time, he urged residents to plant trees on their property, saying this would help the agency reach its other goal of curbing pollution.

Tolentino said the greening program was the offshoot of resolutions approved by the Metro Manila Council which recently organized the Metro Manila Greening Committee. The body, chaired by Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin San Pedro, was tasked to "study [the] implementation of the regreening activity" in consultation with Ayala Land Inc.

"We're envisioning a new Metro Manila that has a southern look, a 'green' look with thousands of trees and plants all over our major roads, parks, along esteros and all other open spaces," the MMDA chair said.

FALLEN GIANT

Workers remove the trunk of an old acacia tree which fell down without warning on United Nations Avenue in Manila, leading to the busy street's temporary closure.

METROBRIEFS

Dead man found in street

A GRISLY sight met a woman runner in a pitch-dawn walk yesterday. That of a stabbed man apparently strangled to death in front of her house. Antonio Andales, 23, of Manila Compound, Port Area, Manila, was found dead in front of the house of Clara Mendoza at the corner of Lakandula Street in Barbel III, Tondo.

Based on the autopsy conducted by state investigator SPO3 Edgardo Ilo of the Manila Police District's homicide section, Mendoza was walking back to her house at around 3 a.m. when she spotted the body sprawled near his doorstep, prompting her to inform the barangay chair. When barangay officials inspected the body, they found that Andales had marks on his neck as if he had been strangled. The victim's cellular and she last saw him alive two days ago. Investigators said that since no one saw the killing, it was possible that the victim was killed elsewhere and his body dumped in front of Mendoza's house to mislead the police.

Jayson T. Eland

Stream – It's The Company You Keep

Manila, Philippines – June 01, 2011 – Hailed as Employer of the Year, checked. Strongest company to get the award, checked. First BPO to take the award, checked. Only BPO to bag the award, checked. Score all three to Stream Global Services or Stream. No other business process outsourcing (BPO) firm can make such a claim.

Stream, formerly known as eTelecare was recognized in 2005 as the place to be employed by the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). This industry group comprised of esteemed and highly regarded human resource practitioners in the country selected a BPO company for the very first time. Who is Stream? It is a pioneer in the country's BPO industry having setup a shop in September 2000. Now, Stream is a recognized category leader known for its people culture, industry expertise and wide global presence.

Jamal Morrison, Stream's vice president and Philippine country manager, explains Stream's key to success, "Stream has gained much of its success from the commitment of people in an organization. Stream's business philosophy and track record of success allow for tremendous career development opportunities for its employees. Creating careers, not just jobs, is part of what we do."

Career progression

Eighty percent of its local operational team leadership has been with Stream for the past 9 to 11 years. As of 2010, 10 percent of Stream's operations team were internally developed, while the other 10 percent are external hires, which ensures a fresh and balanced approach in dealing with its clients' operations. To date, 79 percent of Stream's leadership in the Philippines were internally developed, which is proof of Stream's strong "promote from within" philosophy; so employees are able to maximize their potentials.

"Stream gave me the opportunity to maximize my potential in the BPO industry. From being an agent when I started almost 10 years ago, I would never be in my position today without all the opportunities that were given to me. Working at Stream has given me a great sense of fulfillment in my career. I am proud to be part of the team," said Oliver Salvacion, Site Director, Cebu.

A country pioneer and recognized category leader

The PMAP award testifies to Stream's strong and healthy work culture. The Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) also recognizes Stream for its contributions to the development and application of ICT. The CICT award is a testament to Stream's work in spurring the industry's rapid growth and boosting the sector's contribution to the Philippine economy.

Through the years, Stream garnered various industry recognitions through its operational excellence. In 2010, Stream got the nod for ICT Best Practices Awards from ASOCIO for providing excellent contributions to the development and application of ICT in the Asia Pacific region. In 2011, it landed the Training Excellence and Business Training Innovation award from the BPO Training Excellence Awards for exemplifying world-class standards, best practice, innovation and excellence in the BPO industry. The prestigious 2011 Global Outsourcing 100 listed Stream in the "Leaders" category as one of the world's best outsourcing service providers.

ASOCIO (L-R) Lee Kian Leong, ASOCIO President; Jamal Morrison, Vice President and Country Manager, Stream Global Services; Dinah Ramos, DTI ICT Best Practices Awards Secretariat; and ASOCIO ICT Summit & Award

People culture advocate

The culture at Stream plays a key role why employees stay. The friendships employees have formed within Stream remained true only in the work place but beyond. "Employees from our earliest training classes in 2000 still get together annually to celebrate their graduation. They have gone on to develop impressive careers but still connect with each other. It's a big company that feels like a close family," added Morrison.

Relationship is only one facet of Stream's people culture. Advancement and recognition are also important. Stream provides clear directions and goals for each worker. It's an open process where employees can voice out their concerns and be recognized for their contributions.

Relationships, advancement and recognition fuel the passion of Stream's people, leaving to excel becomes the by-product and they get respect for their contributions.

Industry expert

Stream has one of the most experienced management teams in the industry. Average industry experience is 10 to 11 years. This experience and knowledge set Stream apart from its competitors. And this is Stream's skilled representatives, and the passion drive leads to better profits and satisfied customers.

BPO Training Excellence Awards (L-R) Eric Harrison, Global Training Lead, Team Manager and Training Excellence Awardee; Raul Fabros, Jr. customer for Training Management and Development; and Jamal Morrison, Vice President and Country Manager during the 2010 ICT Best Practices Awards at Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila Hotel

Global Presence

Globally, Stream has about 16,000 highly skilled employees in 30 service centers in 12 countries. Its footprint is found in North America, Europe, India, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Philippines. Stream is also able to support 33 languages. Stream has eight sites in the Philippines with a total seat capacity of 9,232. These are in Quezon City, Makati, Muntinlupa, Mandaluyong, Clark and Cebu.

STREAM is the employer of choice

For college graduates and career-shifters, Morrison adds, "At Stream, our employees take pride in their achievements. Employees are encouraged and enabled to give their best for the success of the team. Everyone wants to be part of something successful. If feeling good about what you do and the people you work with is important to you then we would love to have you at Stream."

The WORLD

Edita Lawrence B. Suaco

Germany to shut down all nuke plants

BERLIN—Europe's economic powerhouse, Germany, is to abandon nuclear energy over the next 11 years—drawing up an ambitious plan in the wake of Japan's Fukushima disaster to replace atomic power with renewable energy sources.

Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday said she hopes the transformation to more solar, wind and hydroelectric power becomes a test case for other countries.

"We believe that we can show those countries who decide to abandon nuclear power—or not to start using it—how it is possible to achieve growth, creating jobs and economic prosperity while shifting the energy supply toward renewable energies," Merkel said.

Merkel's government announced on Monday that it will shut down all of the 17 nuclear power plants in Germany—the world's fourth-largest economy and Europe's biggest—by 2022.

The country's seven oldest reactors, already taken off the grid pending safety inspections following the March catastrophe in Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, will remain offline permanently, Merkel said. The plants accounted for about 40 percent of the country's nuclear power capacity.

The decision completed a remarkable about-face for Merkel's center-right government, which only late last year pushed through a plan to extend the life span of the country's 17 reactors—with the last scheduled to go offline around 2036.

But Merkel, who holds a Ph.D. in physics, now says in Germany, technologically advanced Japan's "helplessness" in the face of the Fukushima disaster made her rethink the technology's risks.

Overcoming nuclear power within a decade will be a challenge, but it will be feasible and ultimately give Germany a competitive advantage in the renewable-energy era, Merkel said.

"So the first big industrialized nation, we can achieve such a transformation toward efficient and renewable energies, with all the opportunities that brings for exports, developing new technologies and jobs," Merkel told reporters.

At the time of Japan's disaster, Germany got just under a quarter of its electricity from nuclear power, about the same share as in the United States.

While Germany already was set to abandon nuclear energy eventually, the decision—which will require parliamentary approval—dramatically speeds up that process. Environment Minister Norbert Roettgen said there are no provisions that would allow a later policy reverse.

"We don't only want to remove nuclear energy by 2022; we also want to reduce our CO2 emissions by 40 percent and double our share of renewable energies, from about 17 percent today to then 35 percent," the chancellor said. AP

WorldBriefs

50 Yemen protesters killed

DUBAI—More than 50 protesters in the Yemeni city of Taiz have reportedly been killed since Sunday by troops trying to crush their antigovernment rallies, a UN human rights official said on Tuesday. "The (Yemeni) rights office has received reports, which remain to be fully verified, that more than 50 people have been killed since Sunday in Taiz by Yemeni forces, Republican Guards and other government-affiliated elements," UN human rights chief Navi Pillay said in an televised briefing. Reuters

31 dead in wedding bus crash

MUMBAI—At least 31 people were killed in India's western state of Maharashtra on Tuesday when a bus carrying more than 40 people returning from a marriage party skidded off a wooden bridge and fell into a pond, police said. Local villagers attempted to save those trapped inside the bus as it began to sink, before police and a disaster-response team reached the scene. Six people were pulled alive from the bus and taken to a local hospital. The dead were covered with white cloths laid on the ground, eyewitnesses said. Reuters

Iran irks Germany

NEW DELHI—Iran briefly closed its airspace to German Chancellor Angela Merkel's plane as she flew for a visit to India on Tuesday, delaying her arrival and sparking a diplomatic row. Merkel was held up as she flew over Iran on Monday—Tuesday for a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Pratibha Patil in New Delhi. "Hindering the German chancellor's passage over Iran is absolutely unacceptable. It shows a lack of respect toward Germany that we will not accept," Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said in a statement. He summoned the Iranian ambassador to Berlin to "make it very plain that such a breach of international commitments will in no way be tolerated by Germany." AFP

Korean shooting targets

SEOUL—Some South Korean army training grenades are using pictures of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and his sons as targets on rifle ranges, the defense ministry said on Tuesday. Several training centers for army reservists, including those in Gyeonggi province surrounding the capital Seoul, use the pictures as targets, a ministry spokesperson said. Each center sets their "enemies" to suit their training procedures and the ministry issued no instructions about targets, he told AFP. Conservative media published pictures of targets depicting Kim Jong-il, his late father and founding president Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il's youngest son and heir apparent Kim Jong-Un. AFP

7 Vietnam activists jailed

HANOI—A Vietnam court has jailed seven activists agitating for land rights and religious freedom for up to eight years, a US-based group said. In the latest of a series of verdicts against dissidents, The United States said it was "troubled" by the convictions, on charges of attempted subversion, against peaceful activists. AFP

Egyptian arrested for NY hotel maid sexual abuse

NEW YORK—An Egyptian businessman and one-time head of a major Egyptian bank has been charged with sexually assaulting a hotel maid at a luxury New York City hotel, police said.

The arrest on Monday of Mohmoud Abdel Salam Omar came two weeks after former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn was charged with trying to rape a hotel maid at another upscale Manhattan hotel).

Omar, 74, is accused of assaulting the hotel worker in the deserted bathroom that had been requested to room 1027 about 1 p.m. Monday at the Pierre Hotel on Manhattan's Upper East Side, police said.

Omar, a former chair of the Bank of Alexandria and the Egyptian American Bank, is board chair of El-Mex Sultina Co., according to the sole company's website.

El-Mex Gulfmex Company said it had no comment.

An assault was reported to police on Monday morning. Omar, of Alexandria, Egypt, was arrested and charged with sexual assault, unlawful imprisonment, forcible touching and harassment. Reuters

Mexican teacher sings during shoot-out, is rewarded

MONTERREY—Mexican authorities on Monday rewarded a kindergarten teacher who kept a group of children calm by singing to them as shots were fired outside, after her video of the incident became an Internet hit.

The pictures showed Blanka Ivette Rivera Marin leading the five- and six-year-olds in song as they lay on the floor at the Alfonso Reyes kindergarten in northern Nuevo Leon state. Frightened bullets rang out in the background.

Police said gunmen had shot dead five people in a taxi and tried to set the school on Friday.

Nuevo Leon state governor Rodrigo Medina de la Cruz recognized the teacher's "valor, devotion and courage to confront a dire situation" and handed her a framed certificate, according to a statement on Monday.

"It shows us the path to follow in difficult times that our state and our country are experiencing, and it's with examples like this that we have to keep advancing," the governor added.

Nuevo Leon and its capital and economic hub Monterrey were considered some of the safest areas in Mexico until recent years, when they have seen drug cartels and rivalries blamed on the Gulf drug gang and its former ally the Zetas. AFP

The Internet: Now Better with Apps!

How apps are changing the way we browse the web

A decade ago, nobody thought that browsing the Internet with your mobile phone would be practical. Small screens, bad web design -- and really, what else for? If you wanted to check that evening's movie schedule all you needed was a text message sent to a service number and voila, your movies!

Today however, smartphones are online 24/7 thanks to unlimited Internet surfing plans. Not only has the web evolved; so have the many ways to view them. In this new decade, you can get your online fix over and done without having to open your phone's built in browser.

The secret? Apps.

There's an app for everything. Close to 300,000 in the Android Marketplace. And best of all, most of what you need is free. All you need is a GMail account to log into your phone's Marketplace and download everything to your heart's content. Really, it takes less than a minute to get your favorite apps!

If you're still not convinced, here are 3 more reasons why browsing the web with apps make more sense.

Looks better. Works better.

Although today's website designers usually build a mobile-friendly version of their sites to fit small screens, nothing compares to the eye candy -- and more importantly, the functionality that a well designed app offers.

The HTC Desire S for instance has one of the best stock apps for reading through Facebook and Twitter. 'Friend Stream' puts your Twitter, Facebook, and Plurk friends on your phone's home page so you actually don't need to open a separate app to view and comment on their latest updates.

The beauty of apps is that information automatically updates in the background, so every time you unlock your phone, you're notified of new status updates and tweets. If you were to browse Twitter or Facebook from the Internet browser, you'd need to manually refresh the page every time. Hassle!

More features than the browser version

You may have noticed some of your friends "checking in" to their favorite places using Foursquare. Well guess what! You can't do that from your browser. A lot of these services, called "social apps" are built for smartphones because it makes use of your cellphone signal to look for coordinates to nearby establishments. If you're looking for hidden peanuts and discounts to restaurants and establishments, it's easier if you're on Foursquare!

The Facebook for Android app is a lifesaver. When you enter your login details on the app version, it asks if you want to sync your Facebook contact data with your current address book. This means that when you send an SMS to a friend, you will also be able to see profile photo updates and status updates. As an added bonus, if your friends list their number on Facebook, you will be able to see if they changed their cellphone numbers. Can't do that on a browser!

Save time. Save data.

Here's a tidbit of information: your phone's web browser usually takes longer to load websites because these sites are optimized for bigger screens. On a smartphone, you're on a smaller screen and don't have a need for big ads, scripts loading here and there, and hi-resolution photos.

If you can find application versions of your favorite sites, it's a big guarantee that content will load faster because your phone is downloading less data, enough for a 3-4 inch screen.

If you were to view the New York Times from your browser, you'd have to load every page individually and that would be an inconvenience especially if you're in an area with no signal. However, if you download the New York Times app from the Android Marketplace, you will only need to download each issue once and spend the whole day reading without having to connect to the Internet.

There's no doubt about it: apps are the new way of browsing the Internet. Apps make your mobile life easier by making the web easier to read, faster to download and more interesting with added features. The best part? With close to 300,000 apps inside the Android Marketplace, more and more are being developed everyday. Everyday, there are new apps just waiting to be downloaded. It's like one big surprise party on your phone!

Google expands support for paid Android apps to consumers in the Philippines

(Manila, Philippines, May 12, 2010) - Today Google announced that Android Market will increase consumer access and developer support for paid applications in several new countries, including the Philippines. Consumers from 29 new countries will be able to purchase apps from Android Market. This latest expansion of Android Market makes more applications -- including games, utilities, and productivity apps -- for consumers.

The number of countries where Android users can purchase or load apps will increase to 32 including the addition of the Philippines. Consumers from these newly supported countries will now have access to over 100,000 free and paid apps on Android Market, which they can access directly from their Android-powered device. Apps will be priced in US Dollars and can be bought through Google Checkout, which supports local Market Card and most credit cards.

Android Market was launched to help developers distribute mobile applications as a level playing field, while enabling users to find and download apps that leverage the unique capabilities of the Android platform. Google is pleased to announce the expansion of Android Market's offerings in these additional countries to deliver more apps for more people.

About Google Inc

Google's innovative search technologies connect millions of people around the world with information every day. Founded in 1998 by Stanford Ph.D. students Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Google today is a top Web property and one of the most recognized brands online. Google's engineering and sales operations are headquartered in Mountain View, California, with offices around the world. Google is backed by several of the leading venture capital firms in Silicon Valley and Boston, including Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers and Sequoia Capital.

SMART

IN THIS ISSUE
■ **Biz Buzz:** Probing one's 'ninong' /B2
■ **Meralco to put up** 300-MW coal-fired power plant /B5

Editor Raul G. Manuelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

■ **Security Bank,** Marubeni ink deal /B5
■ **MPIC, San Miguel** seek foreign partners /B8

SMB in $100-M brewery expansion

Share sale also planned to meet free float rule

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL BEER giant San Miguel Brewery is investing about $100 million in four new bottling plants across the country this year, thus expanding its bottling capacity by around 30 percent.

SMB is also planning to set up new breweries in Laos and Cambodia as sister to an expanding customer base in these markets, said company chair Ramon S. Ang who is also president of 20/80% parent conglomerate San Miguel Corp.

The local beer brewery is also in talks with its strategic partner Kirin Holdings of Japan, to allow their stake in SMB units to comply with the 10 percent minimum public float required by the PSE.

"There is a possibility that we will put regional or sun shares," Ang said.

This will be through a public offering of secondary shares, similar to the route taken by its planned first secondary re-pension, SMB has a public float of only 6.6 percent.

In a briefing after SMB's annual stockholders meeting yesterday, Ang said four new bottling plants each with a capacity of 50 million cases a year would be opened this year in Iloilo, Batangas, Cauayan, Isabela, Bicol, and Cagayan de [illegible]

PAGE B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
May 31, 2011
43.250

PLDT woes dampen bourse mood

LOCAL STOCKS ended back sharply on Tuesday, weighed down by telecom giant PLDT which has to contend with rising opposition to its takeover of Philippine Long Distance [illegible]

The Philippine Stock Exchange index lost 50.03 points or 1.18 percent to finish

PAGE B1

Know more about our
Fully Furnished 1-BR Suites.
A limited special offer
for as low as P13,500 a month.
Call 551-0888
www.baygardenclubandresidences.com.ph

Probing one's 'ninong'

THE SENATE Committee on Public Services chaired by Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. yesterday held an inquiry to aid of legislation of the share swap deal between PLDT and Digitel.

It would be wise to note that during the much publicized renewal of wedding vows between the feuding duo, Lucio Tan and Manuel V. Pangilinan stood as sponsors of their principal sponsors.

Of course, we cannot ascertain the depth of the relationship between the senator and Pangilinan, but not a few tongues clucked at the sight of the "coincidental" relationship.

But it is hoped that while looking into the PLDT-Digitel consolidation, Sen. Revilla will spot the long-term interests of Filipino consumers and not let ex-clients Smart and Globe use his agenda. Of course, he will. We're not worried.

Beatriz L. Juarez

Costly elections

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is in hot water with the Securities and Exchange Commission because of alleged lapses in the implementation of the nomination and election (Nomelec) rules during the recent board elections. The PSE will likely be penalized for violating rules "relative to clearance not properly given to candidates" and fine may cost the bourse P1 million, a source from the SEC said.

This is roughly the same fine the PSE was slapped with after lawyer Ital Shearer was appointed bourse president, a move which was reversed by the SEC.

The new fine is not specifically over the still-pending questions about the qualifications of Brokers "E" and "F" (see previous editions), firm ahead of the Broker A and B ones, sources said the SEC had written the PSE to question the clearance given by the Nomelec to certain broker-candidates given its own rule that only candidates from brokerage houses without Securities Regulation Code violations would be allowed to run.

If the Nomelec had followed the rules, then only those broker-candidates on the list would have run.

A PSE official said the bourse would respond through "proper channels." Doris C. Bumatay

Alvarez: in the cross-hairs

MOUNTAINEERED campaign to get Roy to fire Cayetano Commissioner Angelita Alvarez is in full swing.

During the President's recent visit to Davao City, posters working for the Customs chief's removal proliferated some Fords and highways with anti-Alvarez posters and banners ("Leo Alvarez, Bureau of Customs Commissioner: Alam Ba?? Marami Ba??").

Mind you, these weren't just makeshift placards. These were computer-printed posters, indicating some level of planning and budgeting involved. More importantly, these weren't indiscriminately plastered around the city. Whoever made the posters knew exactly where to install so that the President would see them.

The main suspect is a low-profile oil-patch operations in Mindanao, which was the subject of a recent smuggling complaint filed with the DOJ.

It doesn't stop there. Sources said Alvarez' critics have put her before the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Ombudsman for alleged violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, and Anti-Plunder Act.

Alvarez is also facing a complaint before the Civil Service Commission for alleged violations of the Anti-Red Tape Act.

PNB offering debt notes worth ₱5.5B

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHOTON GLOBO has bid Philippine National Bank adieu to bear the first year the remaining crumbling block as its merger with Allied Bank and bear the second high profit posted in 2010 with improved recurring earnings.

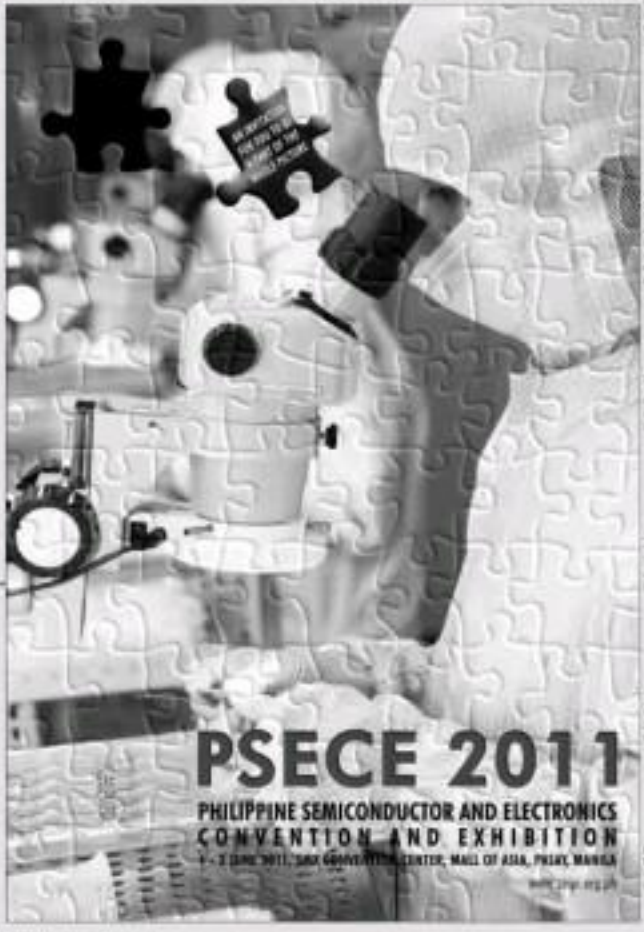
PNB also launched on Tuesday an offering of long-term debt notes qualifying as tier 2 or supplementary capital worth at least ₱5.5 billion. The indication yield is 6.5 to 7 percent per year.

In a briefing, PNB president Eugene Acevedo estimated that the merger with Allied Bank will have a share swap would result in up to ₱3.5 billion in extraordinary expenses. But in the years ahead, he said synergies from the merger could translate to cost savings of about 30 percent for the surviving entity, which will be PNB.

Acevedo says "higher chance of success" of the PNB-Allied Bank merger being cleared this year given "constructive" discussions with UB holding major shares on the sale of Allied Bank's stake in California-based Oceanic Bank. The sale of Allied Bank's stake to the UB bank is a precondition to UB regulators' consent to the much-delayed PNB-Allied Bank merger.

In the meantime, PNB executive vice president and head of treasury Renato Cebanco III said proceeds from the tier 2 offering would be used to refinance ₱5.5 billion worth of older tier 2 notes that PNB will redeem in August.

A 10-in-1 Electronics Industry Event!



1. THE EXHIBITION (June 1-3)

2. CEO FORUM (June 1)

3. HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY FORUM ON SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (June 1)

4. "BEST-IN-CLASS" STRATEGIES ON WORKPLACE SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT PRESERVATION AND FACILITY ENGINEERING (June 1)

5. REGIONAL CFO FORUM (June 1)

6. IT-ENABLING THE HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES (June 1)

7. PEOPLE: KEY TO THE WHOLE PICTURE (June 1)

8. PHILIPPINE SOLAR/PV SUMMIT (June 2)

9. 21ST ASEMEP NATIONAL TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM (ANTE)

10. 6TH ELECTROSTATIC DISCHARGE (ESD) FORUM

PSECE 2011 IS ORGANIZED BY:

SEIPI

POWERED BY:

PEZA

dti

PSECE 2011 PARTNER COMPANY & ANTS HOST COMPANY:

Continental

SEIPI ANNUAL PARTNERS 2011:

First Gen

Globe Business

SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, INCORPORATED (SEIPI)

BUSINESS

Mobile Alert: Text INQ INQUIRER to 4467 | Website: www.inquirer.net/business | E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph | Text to your landline: Inquirer biz news digest by homepage to 4467

Meralco to put up 300-MW coal-fired power plant

By Amy R. Borres

MANILA ELECTRIC Co., the country's biggest power distributor, said it planned to put up a 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant in an area north of Manila.

This is the second project being eyed for the $1.3-billion, 1,500-megawatt power generation portfolio that Meralco is planning to build. The first, which was announced earlier, is the 1,160-MW Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)-fired plant in Laguna.

Meralco will likely start the construction of the coal-fired power generation plant this year. It is targeted for completion in 2014.

In a briefing following the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday, Meralco chief operating officer Oscar Reyes said Meralco might be spending about $2 million to produce a megawatt of power from the coal facility. This means the project may cost at least $600 million (roughly P27 billion).

Reyes said the coal project "would likely involve local and regional players."

"We are still in the process of identifying a strategic partner who should be one who can bring in value to the project," Reyes said.

In a separate interview, Meralco senior vice president and chief finance officer Jeremy C. Ng-Yap said about 30 percent of this coal-fired power project would be funded through equity infusion and the rest, through project financing. The equity portion may reach P9 billion, she added.

Meralco, Ng- explained, would likely raise the P9 billion in several tranches by gaining this year through corporate loans from both local and foreign banks. This planned fund raising has yet to be approved by the Meralco board.

In the meantime, Meralco president and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan is optimistic that the distribution utility will post better results or core earnings for 2011 compared to 2010, which was said to be an "exceptional year" due to the elections and the warmer weather during the period.

This optimism was hinged on the expected higher distribution, supply and metering charges, once the increases under the third regulatory period for the performance-based scheme were approved by the government.

Meralco is also implementing measures to help contain costs, Pangilinan added.

For this year, he said Meralco would focus on the strengthening of its core distribution utility business.

"Improving our efficiencies is for us a continuing agenda because of our customers' growing requirements and enduring need for reliable service," he said.

Security Bank, Marubeni ink deal

By Michelle V. Ramos

SECURITY BANK Corp. has sealed an agreement with Japanese firm Marubeni Corp. to put up a leasing company.

Under the agreement, Security Finance Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Security Bank that is engaged in leasing and consumer lending, would be renamed and take in Marubeni as joint owner.

Security Bank will own 60 percent of the soon-to-be-established leasing firm, while Marubeni will own 40 percent.

The new firm will engage primarily in the funding of construction equipment, trucks and buses.

The joint venture was announced yesterday during the annual stockholders' meeting of Security Bank held in its main office in Makati City.

"We are optimistic that this joint venture will bring in new clients, provide opportunities for bundling various services, expand our product line and loan portfolio and create value for the shareholders," Security Bank president and chief executive officer Alberto Villarosa yesterday said during the bank's stockholders' meeting.

Marubeni, which is engaged in various businesses, has a leasing business in Indonesia and United Kingdom.

Security Bank is one of the key players in the Philippine banking sector. As of end-2010, Security Bank ranked 12th among the biggest banks in the country in terms of assets. Its net income in 2010 hit P7.3 billion, registering a 13.6 percent rise from P6.86 billion in the previous year.

BDO

Asset Management

Drive your way to the BDO Fantastic Auto Sale

Major reduction in car prices
Visit us at No. 63-65, Howmart Street,
Bassa District II, Quezon City

BDO Car Deposit is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please call (632) 702-7008 or 702-7000. You may also check our website www.bdo.com.ph and access Properties for Sale.

We find ways

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE "SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF THE DSWD STANDARD BOOTH"

(PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NO. ____)

1. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), through its Procurement Service, intends to apply the sum of one million three hundred thousand pesos (₱1,300,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the "Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of the DSWD Standard Booth". Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) now invites bids for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of the DSWD Standard Booth. Delivery of the booth is required within forty (40) calendar days upon receipt of the Notice of Award. Bidders should have completed, within three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment is given in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II, Bid Data Sheet.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" (GPRA).

Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the RA 9184 IRR.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on 01 May 2011 until 31 May 2011 from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of one thousand pesos (₱1,000.00). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, provided that bidders shall pay the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The Department of Social Welfare and Development will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 17 May 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the DSWD Social Technology Bureau, 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, IBP Road, Constitution Hills, Batasan Hills, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 31 May 2011 9:30 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on 31 May 2011 9:30 a.m. at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the time and place specified. LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

8. The Department of Social Welfare and Development reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to:

VILMA B. CABRERA
Assistant Secretary and
Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson

(PSA-June 1, 2011)

NOTICE

A Petition for Judicial Declaration of Presumptive Death filed against the Respondent under Habeas Corpus of solemnization with the Local Civil Registrar of Lucena City, Quezon Province, a copy of which Petition is attached hereto and made an integral part hereof, has been set for hearing on the 15th day of July 2011 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 54, Lucena City, Quezon Province.

Petitioner

Counsel for the Petitioner

Office of the Philippine Public Counsel, an English newspaper published in the Province of the Philippines

(PSA-June 1, 2011)

NOTICE

A Petition for Judicial Declaration of Presumptive Death under Article 41 of the Family Code filed against the Respondent under Habeas Corpus of solemnization with the Local Civil Registrar of Lucena City, Quezon Province, a copy of which Petition is attached hereto and made an integral part hereof, has been set for hearing on the 15th day of July 2011 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 54, Lucena City, Quezon Province.

Petitioner

Counsel for the Petitioner

Office of the Philippine Public Counsel, an English newspaper published in the Province of the Philippines

(PSA-June 1, 2011)

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS WHERE IS"

2003 VOLVO S80 T6 A/T / XMG-577

For particulars, please call Charris Philz Insurance, Inc. c/o Arvin Calleja at Tel. No. 815-30-80

(PSA-June 1, 2011)

ATTENTION:
Customer Relations

- parts for sale
- products for sale
- services for sale
- space/stand for rent

Call 0917-8123456

HIRING
Experienced Driver
Call
09283504638

ROLEX
Authorized Dealer

acer

Senior Manager for Customer Service Dept.

Acer has achieved the spot of leading the personal computer and information appliance brand industry globally, and sales for 3 for total PCs and displays. We have direct partnership with key retailers, resellers, and distributors to provide our global market.

40,000 Philippine Acer qualified applicants for an urgent requirement.

Major Responsibilities:

- *Manage the Customer Service Department (CSD) including front line customer services and engineering (center, call center, depot 1 & 2 (isolation and repair of all product lines of Acer, Gateway and eMachines), technical support group, inventory, logistics and warehouse*
- *Develop improved customer service standards, policies and procedures*
- *Responsible for employees' training to deliver excellent customer service and technical support*
- *Ensure that KRAs and targets are achieved in motivating team leaders and members*
- *Analyze the recorded growth in customer satisfaction index and formulate new strategies*

Requirements:

- *Male, not more than 40 years old*
- *Graduate of an Engineering course. MBA is an advantage.*
- *Experience in customer service management-related activities.*
- *Should possess good management and leadership qualities with strong analytical and interpersonal skills*
- *Ability to lead and supervise teams and work under tight deadlines*
- *Ability to produce creative and innovative ideas to upgrade customer service standards*
- *Excellent communication skills*

Please send resume to HR Department with email address hrd@acer.com.ph
Office Address: 34th flr PBCom Tower
Ayala Ave. cor VA Rufino St., Makati City

acer

Sales Manager for Telco

Acer has achieved the spot of leading the personal computer and information appliance brand industry globally, and sales for 3 for total PCs and displays. We have direct partnership with key retailers, resellers, and distributors to provide our global market.

40,000 Philippine Acer qualified applicants for an urgent requirement.

Responsibilities:

- *Develops a business plan and sales strategy for the market that ensures attainment of company sales goals and profitability.*
- *Responsible for the performance and development of the Channel Sales Executives.*
- *Prepares action plans by individuals as well as by team for effective search of sales leads and prospects.*
- *Initiates and coordinates development of action plans.*
- *Assists in the development and implementation of marketing plans as needed.*
- *Maintains accurate records of all pricings, sales and activity reports.*
- *Conduct trainings and product updates.*
- *Adheres to all company policies, procedures and business ethics codes and ensures that they are communicated and implemented within the team.*

Requirements:

- *Male or Female, not more than 35 years old*
- *Preferably a Graduate in Business and Marketing related course.*
- *3 years of experience in sales management.*
- *Good leadership skills*
- *Willingness to travel and to work in a global team of professionals.*
- *Proven leadership and ability to drive sales teams.*

Please send resume to HR Department with email address hrd@acer.com.ph
Office Address: 34th flr PBCom Tower
Ayala Ave. cor VA Rufino St., Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
37 Km. Pan-Philippine Highway, Calamba City
Laguna
Tel. Nos. (049) 545-0461

June 1, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following applications for Alien Employment Permit have been filed with this Regional Office and are now under evaluation:

	Name and Address of Prospective Employer	Name and Nationality of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING SERVICES CORPORATION Lot 2 Phase 1 Special Economic Zone I, Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Hidenori Watanabe (Japanese)	Consultant/Manager
2.	WELLSTONE TILE CORP. Brgy. Bucal, Silang, Cavite	Mr. Akira Matsuyama (Japanese)	Production Manager

If you have any comment/opposition to the above-named applicant, please communicate with this Regional Office.

ATTY. MELINDA C. MARTINEZ, RD., CESO III
Regional Director

To avail of this facility, please visit/patronize our Employment Facilitation Center (EFC) at the Regional Office. Employers/Employees are also invited to log on to www.ro4a.dole.gov.ph

(PSA-June 1, 2011)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

PUBLIC NOTICES

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Legal Notice

CALL POEA

unicef
Unite for children

Institutional Contractor

to undertake

"Research in MDG Public Policy Decision Points and Bottlenecks"

For interested consultants, please call tel. # 901-6101 or email: wclaudio@unicef.org for electronic copy of the "TERMS OF REFERENCE". Deadline for submission of the proposal is 8 June 2011.

BPI/MS Run For A Cause

IN SUPPORT OF THE WORLDWIDE RELIEF EFFORTS for the earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan, BPI/MS Insurance Corp. with BPIBulleners Club invites you to join "Run For A Cause" this June 18, 2011 at the Bonifacio Global City. With 5k, 5k and 10k categories, assembly time is at 5:30 am followed by a 6:30 gun-start. Registration fee is at Php 350 with proceeds going to Japan Red Cross. Gather friends and family and run for a cause! For inquiries, please call Blessie Lucero at 840-6414, with email address at mbalucero@bpims.com or Jun Bergonio at 840-8041 with email address at mcbergonio@bpims.com or Marlon Diaz at 8489625 with email address at mmdiaz@bpims.com

SAUDI ARAMCO TOTAL REFINING & PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY

SATORP is a joint venture between Saudi Aramco and Total to own and operate a refinery and petrochemical complex in Jubail. The company is building a 400,000 barrel per day (bpd) refinery and petrochemical complex in Jubail, Saudi Arabia. The refinery will process Saudi Arabian crude oil to produce refined products for transportation fuels and fuel oil.

SATORP is seeking high caliber individuals looking for challenging opportunities in Jubail, Saudi Arabia for the following positions. Qualified candidates should possess the following minimum requirements:

· Open Day Recruitment ·
on June 4, 2011 (Saturday) at IPAMS

SATORP is seeking high caliber individuals looking for challenging opportunities in Jubail, Saudi Arabia for the following positions. Qualified candidates should possess the following minimum requirements:

Mechanical Inspectors

- Minimum age of 35 years
- Minimum 5 years experience in Mechanical Inspection of Refinery and Petrochemical Plants
- Minimum high school graduate with Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
- Fluent in English

Welding Inspectors

- Minimum age of 35 years
- Minimum 5 years experience in Welding Inspection of Refinery and Petrochemical Plants
- Minimum high school graduate with Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
- Fluent in English

NDT Technicians - Level III

- Minimum age of 35 years
- Minimum 5 years experience in NDT Inspection of Refinery and Petrochemical Plants
- Minimum high school graduate with Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
- Fluent in English

Please bring your CV in English personally along with full length and passport size photographs. Short listed candidates will be requested to attend further processes over the next two to three days.

The above positions will be based in Jubail, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

For further information, please visit www.satorp.com

Only IPAMS sponsored candidates will be interviewed.

satorp@satorp.com

IPAMS

Aim higher and be a winner.

Join one of the most awarded airlines in the sky.

Qatar Airways, winner of the Skytrax award for Best Cabin Crew in the Middle East, for seven consecutive years invites you to be a part of its success story.

Qatar Airways Recruitment - Male Cabin Crew (1 year contract)

To be part of this exciting team, you need to meet the following requirements:

- Minimum age of 21 years
- Minimum one year of GCC (six or six) exp.
- Minimum high school education with fluency in written and spoken English required

Take advantage of this exciting opportunity by submitting your CV to our Recruitment Team.

MANILA - (CV Submission only)

Venue: [illegible] – Roxas Boulevard Cor. Sr. J. Quirino St. Manila, Philippines

Date: 9-10 June 2011

Time: 09:00 - 12:00 hours only

Please bring your CV in English personally along with full length and passport size photographs. Short listed candidates will be requested to attend further processes over the next two to three days.

The above positions will be based in Doha, State of Qatar.

For further information, please visit www.qatarairways.com

Only IPAMS sponsored candidates will be interviewed.

qatarairways.com

QATAR

IPAMS

2010 Presidential Awardee of Excellence

Providing you the best opportunities

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
(036) 6219-636 Local 111
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE** invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Name of Contract	:	Purchase of Various Hospital Equipment for the use of Capiz Provincial Government Hospitals
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	P 65,240,000.00
Source of Fund	:	2010 Health Facility Enhancement Program of the Department of Health

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 01, 2011
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	June 06, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
3.	Opening of Bids	July 06, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat through the Technical Cabinet of the address given above during office hours. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Bidding Documents at BAC Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee of P5,000. Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00).
3. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements & technical proposals as First Envelope and Financial Proposal as Second Envelope in the Bid Boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form or cash in an amount of 2% of ABC of each Line Item and must be dropped at the BAC drop box on or before the closing date on June 06, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
5. BAC committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or reimburse the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
6. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **DR. FLORENCIO LUCERNA JR.**
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PSI - June 01, 2011)

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
For Goods and Services
Bldg. 229, Alexander Rd.
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel no: (047) 252-4554 / 4311
www.sbma.com

Second Notice

SBMA ITB No. 02-11

INVITATION TO BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Goods and Services, invites eligible Bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

LOT NO.	Name of Project	Approved Budgeted Cost for the Contract (ABC)
1	One (1) Lot Services and Materials for the Dry Docking and Repainting Works of MV Kalayaan and MV Mayon-I at Rivera Pier (SRF Compound), Subic Bay Freeport Zone	P 1,484,484.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise know as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the pre-qualification for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders only upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of **P 2,000.00** to the SBMA Treasury Department, Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, SBFZ, beginning on **June 6, 2011 (Monday)** to **June 21, 2011 (Monday)** from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

It may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **June 13, 2011 (Monday)** at **2:00 p.m.** at the SBMA Conference Room, Rm. 324, Bldg. 229, Alexander Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Deadline for the submission and opening of the Bid/Tender Documents shall be on **June 21, 2011 (Monday)** at **2:00 p.m.** SBMA Conference Room, Rm. 324, Alexander Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

The SBMA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RAFAELITO G. GARGAR**
BAC Chairman

(PSI - June 01, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for Tax Reforms Administration (BAC-TRA)
Quezon City

June 1, 2011

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of the Philippines
Tax(es)/TRAN'S OF HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEM (HRIS)
Consulting Services
WPS Bill Loan No. 7511-PH
BAC-TRA Bidding No. 2011-07
Expressions of Interest

The Republic of the Philippines has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Program Support for Tax Administration Reforms (NPSTAR) Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultancy services.

The services, which shall be rendered six (6) months from receipt of Notice to Proceed include enhancement of HRIS and installation of outstanding issues, HRIS providers and integrated computerized system for faster processing of personnel records.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance qualification.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: **Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers** (current edition) using Quality- and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method.

Interested consultants may obtain the checklist of qualification requirements and further information at the address below during office hours, from 0800 to 1700 hours, on working days from Monday to Friday.

Expressions of Interest together with the consultants' qualification documents must be submitted to the address below until June 16, 2011.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for Tax Reforms Administration (BAC-TRA)
BAC-TRA Room, 4th Floor, National Office Building
BIR Compound, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100 Philippines
Telephone No.: (632) 981-7044
Facsimile No.: (632) 981-7044
e-mails: bac-tra@bir.gov.ph, wenna.ramos@birgov.ph
website: http://www.bir.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ACIR VICTORIA S. SANTOS**
Tax Reforms Administration Group
Chair, BAC-TRA

(PSI — June 01, 2011)

MAKE-IT-HAY TRABAHO DITO!
Get more exposure for your ad.
Advertise on INQUIRER CLASSIFIED

OBITUARIES

The obituary with a picture you're looking without to your departed loved one.

Inquirer Obituaries

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

In loving remembrance of the 7th Death Anniversary of

Teresa L. Diaz

June 13, 1923 – June 1, 2004

"Our love will keep your memory alive."

Lolly, family and friends

Special masses will be held in Las Piñas and Tarcan.

CRAVENA ALBORNOZ PONCE

November 4, 1937 – May 31, 2011

peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 73.

Loving mother and grandmother, generous friend, kind teacher

She is survived with her husband, Domingo and will be much missed by her children, Pilo and Ritad, Anita and Rondo, 7 apo and 1 Paul, Bb'n and Vitto, grandchildren Nika, Cubbi, Flordeliz and Paeng. Friends and relatives respectfully invited to pay her the last respects of love and.

Her remains lie in state at Nuss Air Base Chapel, Floridablanca, Pampanga.

Interment will be on June 4 at God's Little Angels Memorial Park after the 9:00am Holy Mass at Nuss Air Base Chapel.

"I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

Inquirer Obituaries

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him." - I Corinthian 2:9

Call us, Inquirer Classifieds:
Head Office: 897-8425 (Telefax); 896-442; 897-88-08 loc. 514, 516; 896-4425 • Cubao: 421-0343 • Makati: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370 • Kalaw: 528-0213 • Megamall: 635-0219; 635-0220

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
(2 Timothy 4)

BUSINESS

MPIC, San Miguel seek foreign partners

SMC eyes Ongpin's 37% stake in ETPI

SAN MIGUEL Corp. may acquire the Ongpin group's remaining interest in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (ETPI), as it positions itself to compete in the revealed but lucrative industry.

SMC president and COO Ramon S. Ang yesterday said the company planned to buy the 37 percent stake of BM Communications, owned by businessman Roberto V. Ongpin, in ETPI.

BM last week approved the possible sale of its remaining stake in ETPI, valued at about P1.2 billion, to raise funds for investment in other industries.

The put value of those shares was computed based on the price SMC paid when it bought ETPI shares from the Ongpin group earlier this year.

SMC's current 63-percent interest in ETPI was bought by subsidiary Vega Telecom early this year for P1.6 billion.

ETPI is the third telco to be acquired by SMC after Liberty Telecommunications Holdings Inc. and Bell Telecommunications Inc.

SMC is best-performing company in the country's telecommunications sector. *Marlo G. Mamaville*

UBS expects tightening of BSP policy rates

By Ramon F. W. Dominguez

THE PHILIPPINE economy's first-quarter growth of 4.9 percent year-on-year points to a gradual tightening of monetary policy with overnight borrowing rising to 5 percent by the end of the year, according to UBS Securities.

The Switzerland-based investment research firm said in a research note that the continued economic growth could also support a strong peso.

"We continue to expect 50 basis points of policy rate increases in two 25-basis point steps over the next six months, taking rates to 5 percent," said Edward Teather, a UBS economist.

A continuously growing domestic economy "will leave monetary policy settings fairly easy but could give some support to the currency as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) lifted level lagged those elsewhere in the region as a result of hitherto benign inflation pressures," Teather said.

Track record in train operations

By Paolo G. Montecillo

TWO MAJOR potential bidders for the Joint Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Metro Rail Transit (MRT) operations contract are currently searching for foreign partners that can give them the technical expertise to operate the commuter train lines.

San Miguel Corp. president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang on Monday said the company was in talks with several foreign groups that would enable the conglomerate to take on the project.

Optimal Infrastructure Inc., a unit of SMC, was among the 16 companies that have so far bought bid documents for the five-year P16-billion project from the Department of Transportation and Communications.

The government has said that no local bidder was qualified to take on the project, given the need for a background in operating trains, as stipulated in the terms of reference.

Ang said SMC might form a joint venture with a foreign firm to bid for the project, but noted that hiring a foreign train operator could be an expensive option.

In a separate interview, Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), said his group was also in discussions for a possible tie-up with a foreign firm.

MPIC unit Metro Pacific Lightrail Corp. is also one of the firms preparing its own bid for the project.

Pangilinan said MPIC's local partner would be its local affiliate, Manserval Inc. (Manila Electric Co.'s [Meralco's] industrial engineering subsidiary).

MPIC and sister firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) own Meralco.

"We don't have any experience in train operations. It will be important, if not necessary, to have a foreign group for the light rail system project," Pangilinan said.

Other local groups interested in the LRT-MRT contract—the first of its kind in Southeast Asia's operation-to-private partnership (PPP) projects to be put on the anvil this March—include conglomerate Ayala Corp. and GM Consumer Inc.

The LRT line 1 and MRT are two of Metro Manila's busiest train lines, each carrying about 500,000 people daily. The privatization contract will operate the trains to create a seamless link between the two lines, leading to better services for commuters.

Japanese auto, parts makers start to recover

By Abigail L. Ho

VEHICLE AND auto parts makers affected by the March 11 earthquake in northern Japan are starting to resume normal operations, with the affected plants now mostly up and running.

According to a report by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti), all factories of Honda Motor Co. resumed operations as early as April 11. Those of Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. followed a week after.

All three car makers have assembly plants in the Philippines.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. announced two weeks ago that factory operations would go back to normal starting today, after several weeks of halving output and implementing a three-day workweek.

In an earlier interview, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. president and general manager Tokunaga Thai-nome said the car maker's Santa Rosa plant would also churn out only half of its normal output until the end of May.

While production could be ramped up again to normal levels after that, he said operations would not be completely normal until the end of the year. For the next part, it was still difficult to say when things would go back to absolute normalcy as the situation in Japan, particularly in the parts market, was still very fluid.

He said the most critical vehicle components that various auto manufacturers, not only Honda, were having problems with in terms of supply was the automotive semiconductor, being supplied mainly by Japan's Renesas Electronics Corp.

CORPORATE ROUNDUP

BBank profit up 27%

NORDEVCRED bank posted a 27 percent profit increase in the first quarter to P57 million.

The rise was attributed to the 29 percent jump in net interest income from retail and commercial banking to P277 million.

BBank's commercial lending operations expanded by 49 percent while remittance grew by 30 percent.

Its deposit base expanded by 37 percent to P2.63 billion, providing it with a stable funding base conducive to growth despite unfavorable market conditions.

BBank is set to get back into mainstream commercial banking after the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved its merger with Robinsons Bank Corp.

Ani invests in white corn

AGROEUROPE INC. (Ani) a rooming company (RC) million in corn farming and milling, was being promoted as an alternative to rice.

Ani president and CEO Antonio L. Tee said Ani would spend P30 million for a grain to get corn mill.

The company is already propagating white corn in Luzon using technology developed by the Department of Agriculture-Institute of Plant Breeding (DPI) and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) College of Agriculture.

It will mill and market the Fresh Choice Advanced (FCA) white corn to the local market in July. Ani is pursuing white corn as a high-fiber health food that is suitable for diabetics because of its low glycemic index. *Elmo Clabocados*

A Green Relaxation

Located along the pristine shores of Subong, Palawan, Sheridan Beach Resort and Spa is a haven for tourists who want to experience the wonders of nature, without having to rough it up. The resort comes complete with a 1440 sq. meter pool, poolside bar, air-conditioned rooms and other amenities that could easily give even the most exclusive hotels a run for its money. More importantly, it offers all these and more in a preserves one of Palawan's greatest treasures– it's natural surroundings.

"Our number one asset at Sheridan is our area's natural beauty. That is why we are thankful for BPI, because it helped us pursue means to preserve the environment"

As one of the country's first green resorts, Sheridan operates on an energy efficient and self-sustaining platform. Proving that relaxation doesn't have to come at a steep price – or at nature's expense– its owners remained steadfast in their goal of constructing a resort that complements its immediate environment.

"Our number one asset at Sheridan is our area's natural beauty. That is why we are thankful for BPI, because it helped us pursue means to preserve the environment, as we could a leisurely and affordable getaway for our guests," explains Ed Tengco, General Manager of Sheridan. He fully comes in the form of a loan under BPI Sustainable Energy Finance – a program designed for the benefit of entrepreneurs who seek to invest in eco-friendly and affordable sources of renewable energy, in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Sustainable Energy Finance has helped projects that are expected to eliminate 350,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Sheridan's Eco-Lodging and Eco-Canning story started with its owners' advocacy. "The owners were very passionate about finding solutions that will save on costs, and protect the environment. They really took the initiative when BPI made its recommendations on how to improve the resort," says Tengco. To get started, the bank with the help of its partners, conducted an energy audit for FREE to determine the resort's energy demands, as well as energy consumption practices that can be improved.

The owners then availed of a loan under the Sustainable Energy Finance to acquire and install a number of features that will help transform Sheridan into the green paradise they've always wanted it to be. These ranged from simple energy saving light bulbs, creating a vast on-site vegetable farm, and setting up its own water treatment facility. "You can really see the difference. Instead of our bearing billsare for PhP 120 per bill, we'll just grow it," divulges Tengco with a smile.

Such changes alone paved the way for 10-40% savings on costs, both on energy and other forms of expenditures. Inspired by the initial results, the team behind Sheridan aims to add more improvements as it formally opens to the public middle of this year. Tengco hinted plans to further cut on costs by establishing Sheridan's own piggery, and purchasing a smaller generator that can supply the resort's dramatically reduced need for electricity.

Sustainable Energy Finance has also helped Sheridan open doors leading to greener opportunities that go beyond costs and eco-friendliness. It has provided livelihood to the locals, specifically to its employees from neighboring communities who are now involved in Sheridan's day-to-day operations. "It's a win-win situation. We create jobs, we're a stand-alone property, virtually in the middle of nowhere, we have to work extra hard to put, not just Sheridan, but Subong on the map. This is a task we all take to heart, and we're thankful that we have found a partner in BPI, as well as the people we work with on the island," adds Tengco.

Truly an Eco-Saver by nature and an Eco-Earner at heart, Sheridan has successfully set the gold standard in developing green resorts. And as tourists start to pour in, so too will the rewards of their ingenious eco-friendly and energy-saving schemes. With this, Tengco encourages other SMEs in Palawan to follow suit. "The Department of Tourism (DoT) in Palawan has shared with us that they are doubling tourist targets for 2011. Now is the perfect time for our fellow resort owners to start investing on technologies that will maximize our resources, so that we can serve these tourists better as they come," he concludes.

Just like Sheridan and its owners, you too can help set the wheels in motion for the country's green revolution. Be an Eco-Saver and Eco-Earner by calling or e-mailing BPI Corporate Banking. You can reach them through the following telephone numbers: +632 8455475, 8455809, 8455834; and email address: BPI_SEF@bpi.com.ph. Get your company started on Sustainable Energy Finance now!

OIL and water don't mix. During the rainy season, check and maintain your vehicle's lubrication.

A GENERAL rule of thumb is that the floodwater should not exceed half of your car's tires.

Before taking the plunge...

By Tonio R. Soliano

WE MAY count ourselves lucky that we only have two seasons—the dry and the rainy seasons—to worry about. The downside to having just two of them? At their heights, the weather conditions go to the extremes. At its hottest, the summer, or dry season, can be strikingly hot. At its wettest, the rainy season can bring heavy rains. And where there's torrential rain, there are floods.

It has been two years since the nightmares of "Ondoy" when an estimated 14,000 motor vehicles were inundated, sending their look to the repair shops, and setting their owners back tens of thousands of pesos.

Motorists know that the only place water is allowed anywhere near a car's engine is in the radiator. When a motor vehicle is flooded in a stream or river, numerous vital systems can be destroyed. These include the steering components (which require lubrication), the transmission (which controls most internal functions of cars nowadays), the transmission (both automatic and manual), braking systems, wheel bearings and possibly CV (constant velocity) joints. Damages to these can cost the vehicle owner tens of thousands of pesos.

The bad news is, as we enter a potentially nasty rainy season for 2011, there promises to be no short supply of typhoons dumping strong winds and heavy rains on the archipelago. The good news is, we still have several means to enable us to think things through before driving over that flooded street or river and risking our money, lives and vehicles. Here are some driving tips during heavy rains and floods:

1 Take the familiar route. Assuming you haven't been driving bloodshot all this time, you must know by now which streets and highways are generally spared from deep floods. When heavy rains do come, it's wise to take that route instead of making detours on unfamiliar roads and alleyways. Remember, it's much better to get stuck in traffic in a high place than to get stuck in floods in a low one.

2 Observe other vehicles crossing or traversing a flooded street. Slow-drop cars (cars with idle rides usually through floodwater? A general rule of thumb is that the floodwater should not exceed half of your car's tires. And you don't have to alight from your vehicle and slosh in floodwater to measure the flood's depth. Ferman Luz of Speedlab in Quezon Avenue offers this tip: If the sidewalk is already breached by the floodwater, it's best to turn back, especially if you're driving a low-slung sedan.

3 Check your electrical systems after crossing deep floods. Fog lamps, because of their position close to the ground, are more vulnerable to electrical malfunctions caused by water breach. Another key component that may be more vulnerable to floods is the alternator. Have it checked as well.

4 Oil and water don't mix. During the rainy season, it would be best if motorists have their vehicles' lubrication checked and maintained. Oil and grease must be maintained where they are most needed—and where they are most likely affected during the rainy season: At the ball joints, car rods and other moving parts/axles from the engine.

Inside the engine, oil is the lifeblood, as well. Hundreds of parts inside the engine move simultaneously and in harmony because of movable metal bearings that require oil as lubrication, Car Care and Maintenance writers Ines and Judy Rasuary detailed.

Luz reveals that a new, water-resistant oil line keeps state-based. He says that this new oil would not be washed out even after the car is submerged in floods.

"It's a chemical called Dimethine that you can spray on electrical motors, electronics and electrical connectors before you drive through floods. It displaces water and temporarily allows electrical components to function when wet," explained Luz, who has tried the chemical on his shop. "It's cheap. Insurance that having parts replaced, but it is still advisable to have your car checked after being submerged in floods. Since you know that it's already the rainy season, have a service shop spray your electrical connections with this," he stressed.

5 Check your batteries and electrical components even before the rains, advised exterior mechanic Oliver Castañeda, owner of Project O in Mesa Avenue in Quezon City.

Pay special attention to the battery simply because it is your car's electrical power source. The battery powers the starter, computer, radio and other important components. It is recharged by the alternator. According to the Rasuarys, every time you open the hood, perform a quick visual inspection of your car's battery to help you identify problems that could leave you stranded. Look for the following potential problems: Obvious damage to the battery case; corrosion at the terminals or cables; loose cables on the terminals; and liquid. When you see any of these things on your battery, go to your auto-electrician for assistance.

Another part that should merit equal attention is the ECU. Acclaimed female auto repair expert Deanna Sclar, author of "Auto Repair for Dummies," explains that a car's electrical system includes several subsystems that provide your vehicle with that vital spark that makes it start and then keeps it running. It's one of the many quirks on a vehicle that's monitored and controlled by a "super computer" called the engine control unit (ECU). It is the ECU, or what we Pinoys simply call the computer box, that gives many motorists headaches and restless commuter nights as part of the aftermath of the Ondoy tragedy. Make sure to know where your car's ECU is, and never get it into contact with floodwaters.

6 Give the car a brake. As a responsible and thinking motorist, you should know that "braking

BEYOND B2-3

Through the storm

7th Road Trek conditions in Eastern Visayas ironic for market leader Toyota

ALL TOGETHER NOW. The fleet for the 7th Toyota Road Trek negotiates the winding roads in Eastern Visayas.

TOYOTA'S latest Vios served as the Prize banner in this year's edition of the Road Trek.

TOYOTA'S marketing and PR team. From left, Dax Arevalo, Migs de Rivera, Michelle Bayan and April Francisco.

TMPC SVP Marvin Chua-Lim, Lexus Manila President Danny Ma, InqMotor Motoring editor Jojo Arcano and TMPC EVP Yuji Sato present themselves from the debris with beach towels.

TMPC president Michimoto Sugata, TMPC first vice president for redistribution sales Raymund Rodrigues and Cuneo at the awarding dinner in Shangri-La Mactan.

GOTO and Rodrigues flanked by Toyota Cebu's (from left) Trek Ats Jordan, Kim Cuenco and Mitch Marullo.

SAN JUANICO is a bridge not too far as the Road Trek entourage makes its way to the island of Samar.

Text and photos by Chariel E. Bukot

WE FLEW into Tacloban City with hazard beneath. The eye of typhoon "Chedeng" was swirling just a few kilometers away and we were worried that strong winds and heavy rains might ruin the trip.

After all, this is Road Trek, Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation's much-awaited annual media event. Aside from the cash prizes that await the top three winners, their victory will serve as their bragging rights for a year. It kind of intangible accomplishment reward for their efforts.

The Road Trek every requires participants—grouped according to the motoring media outfit they belong to—to drive hundreds of kilometers to visit the coolest sites the province has to offer. In each stopover, teams must complete several tasks similar to 'the Amazing Race' to earn points.

For the seventh edition of the event, TMPC chose the province of Leyte.

And why not? The island is famous for having the country's longest bridge and for being the place where Gen. Douglas MacArthur uttered his famous message "I have returned."

First taste

Unfortunately, Leyte is also one of the few unlucky provinces that typhoons frequent when entering Philippine territory.

So we found ourselves in Tacloban City wondering if Chedeng would make a landfall and our chore the competitions that is scheduled to bring the participants to San Juanico Bridge, the town of Palo where MacArthur's landing memorial is situated and on to Ormoc City. Five (5) teams are the other side of the island, 125 kilometers away) where we are scheduled to ride a fast craft going to Cebu.

SUGATA: Full operation for TMPC in a few weeks

Fortunately, the worst that we have to endure were the showers we broke paired through without a hitch as Chedeng changed direction and spared the whole country from another unfortunate disaster.

So the day went on, the 7th Road Trek got much more enjoyable. The five contest inspired teams to enter Futbol Fiesta (Inside the Rio, Wiki Blaine and Heritage Museum, required teams to listen to the the museum guide (the information is found on the island's Wiki Mark quiz after the tour). On the third pit stop, held in the town of Palo, each team was given a digitally altered picture of the General (Douglas MacArthur Park and must identify the 20 alterations done.

The last task was performed as we neared for our base (the inside Ormoc Rio). A representative of each team was given a 40-itty phrase that he or she should memorize and then recite after board. The one who memorizes the phrase and recites it with perfect accent and intonation wins points.

Gave its best

Our team composed of Inquirer Motoring editor Jojo Arcano, Auto Review hosts Ton delos Reyes and daughter Reyna gave its best to land in the top three.

Unfortunately the other teams also gunning for the same goal—but the other side of the island, 125 kilometers away) where we are scheduled to ride a fast craft going to Cebu.

The practical new MINI Cooper

THE MINI Cooper has always been identified as a nimble, fun-to-drive, big little car for young, trendy car enthusiasts who can afford its premium price. But as the years go by and lifestyles change, MINI customers—mostly ducks—began to look for a bigger, more practical, reliable (but not so commodious) small kids, the car-owning couple's shopping and getaway-to-the bark.

Enter the Countryman, the first four-door MINI and the brand's fourth model, 10 years after BMW took over and reinvigorated the British marque. The Countryman debuted at the March 2010 Geneva Auto Show. Longer, taller and wider than the MINI Coupe/Cabriolet and Clubman, the 2011 Countryman is also higher off the ground and weighs more than its siblings at 1,342 pounds. It is a far cry from the original MINI Countryman of the 1960s which was a wood-sided estate wagon with only two doors.

Recently, British United Automobiles, the official Philippine distributor of MINI cars, delivered a curl blue MINI Countryman S (P2,680,000) to my doorstep for a five-day test drive. Willy Tee Tee's friends at the Net also called Tee's two other Countryman variants: the normally aspirated 120 hp model (P2,380,000) and the all-wheel-drive Countryman S ALL4 (P3,150,000) which can only seat four, including driver, because of the center rail running lengthwise through the middle of the cabin. Except for the ALL4, MINIs are front-wheel drive.

ON THE ROAD

Ankit Serrilla-Mendoza

TOUGHER MIEN

Having previously driven a MINI Cooper S hardtop and a MINI Clubman at different times last year, I was prepared to be impressed by the Countryman. It although I was initially turned off by its proportions (read: fat). But I guess the Countryman S, as the MINI crossover, has to show a tougher mien than the other MINI models. Besides, the Countryman carries the brand's trademark go-kart handling with such, with a black border around the lower part to emphasize the raised ground clearance and the sporty 16-inch wheels. The wheel arches just rising from the car's body hint at its solid roadholding.

Viewed from behind, the Countryman looks less gobby, if not sexually cute. The MINI logo at the rear, when pressed, releases the upward-opening tailgate of the cargo area, which has a capacity of 350 liters increasing to 1,170 liters when the rear seats are flipped down. A 40-liter fuel tank space in the MINI hatch. The rear bumper has a chrome strip and reddish-tech, with tailpipes that dismiss this to a Cooper S, not just the base.

The Countryman S I drove is powered by BMW's enhanced 1.6-liter direct injection petrol engine with twin-scroll turbocharger and full-valvetronic delivering 184 hp max output (versus 172 hp last year) and 240 Nm (+1,600-5,000 rpm) max torque through a 6-speed automatic transmission. It is teamed by the manufacturer to sprint from standstill to 100 kph in 7.9 seconds, with top speed reaching 218 kph—all those you can check out on a traffic-free expressway by stepping on the gas and pressing the Sport button as well.

BIN upward-opening tailgate for the trunk.

INSIDE, cockpit-form and elliptical rings dominate.

THREE adults on the back seat would be a tight fit.

Honestly unveiled. The average fuel consumption claimed is 13.33 km per liter.

LARGER

Because it is larger, taller and heavier than its siblings, the Countryman S is not as quick and has lost some of the MINI brand's famed fun-like agility and flat-out roadholding when whipping through corners. But it remembers handles better than most other cars of its size and still is fun to drive due to BMW engine innovations and the well-engineered suspension. The mixed ground clearance and somewhat-tighter steering position give the driver a cool commanding view of the road that the other MINIs don't offer. The twin-scroll turbocharger's separate cylinder exhaust manifold minimizes turbo lag and loop the turbo spinning at constant speed, while the advanced speed-sensitive electric assist power steering is weighted just right. The ride quality of the Countryman S is firm, to put it mildly.

Although the Countryman's exterior design language may turn off some people, its interior offers a welcoming, cool retro styling with the center console's matte black, with console finish, chrome rings, large side air vents, concave forms, toggle switches, steering wheel-mounted paddle shifters and audio controls and the traditional oversized dome ring around the armrests and door pulls. The center tall storage system between the front seats has cupholders, elbow rests, cables to connect a cell phone and MP3 player and space for small items under the big, sporty handbrake lever. But there is no Bluetooth connectivity and app integration is limited to the iPhone.

On the other hand, the cabin is roomy enough to comfortably seat two 6-foot tall passengers in the back while regular / sports is much easier due to the four doors. Larger cargo capacity is available and accessible, thanks to the longer wheelbase and the forward-folding rear seats.

Bottom line, does the Countryman S impress by successfully providing more space and trolley-us-boss satisfying the inimitable driving character of the MINI 3? By being built a family-friendly and fun to drive little crossover at the same time? In the case of the Countryman S, I would answer yes. But only for the present, while worthy competitors like the Nissan Juke and Volkswagen Tiguan are not yet available here.

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER DEFINITION Conference: The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.

BMW Bass, new exclusive color for the MINI Countryman

Audi wins International Engine of the Year Award for 2.5-liter TFSI

A JURY of 76 motoring journalists from around the world has voted the Audi 2.5-liter TFSI as the "International Engine of the Year 2011" in the 2.5-liter to 2.5-liter category. This engine therefore retains the award that it won last year.

The 2.5-liter unit fitted to the Audi S5 Sportback and TT RS Coupé and Roadster features both turbocharging and FSI direct gasoline injection technology, two of Audi's core technologies. With a displacement of 2,480 cubic centimeters, this engine produces 340 hp between 5,400 and 6,700 revolutions and peak torque of 450 Nm (332 lb-ft) from 1,600 to 5,300 rpm.

International Engine of the Year jury members said of the 2.5-liter engine: "This is certainly the best turbocharged engine in current years. Torque, power, and great sound—this engine has it all. It is a powerful, reserved reminder of the original quattro rally racing engine that put Audi on the map."

Developed by quattro GmbH, the Audi TT RS Coupé can sprint from zero to 100 km/h (62 mph) in 4.3 seconds (Roadster: 4.4 seconds) and hits the Coupé and Roadster have an optional top speed of 280 km/h (174 mph).

Audi now shares the same engine that powers the two TT RS models in the RS 3 Sportback. It takes 4.6 seconds to accelerate from zero to 100 km/h (62 mph)—a best-in-class performance figure. Its governed top speed is 250 km/h (155 mph).

This is the seventh category win in a row in the International Engine of the Year Awards for Audi TFSI technology. Between 2005 and 2009, the Audi 2.0-liter TFSI engine has won the award in the 1.8 to 2.0-liter category.

For more information on the available Audi models with TFSI engine, visit Audi Philippines Showroom at 2B1 Edsa Mandaluyong City or call 726-6161 to 81.

All Winning Deals for Legacy, Forester and Impreza STi hatch

MOTOR IMAGE Philippines, the exclusive distributor of Subaru in the Philippines, will offer special rates and discounts through the Subaru All Winning Deals (AWD). Low down payment schemes, zero-interest plans and all-in packages are available for the Forester, Legacy and Impreza STi to offer its clients the opportunity to bring home a Subaru with the best deals possible. The Subaru AWD will be offered for the entire month of June 2011.

For a limited time only, there will have the chance to own a Subaru with special offers to the Forester, legacy, and Impreza STi Hatchback 5/T. For 58 percent down payment and up to 12 months zero-percent interest, you can bring home the Legacy, or the Forester for 50 percent down payment and up to 36 months zero percent interest. Meanwhile interested buyers for the Impreza STi Hatchback A/T will be offered all-in packages, which will also be available for the aforementioned models. The Subaru All Winning Deals all-in package include five-one-year autoprotection insurance, three years LTO registration, shield mudguard, and SM tint.

Subaru has continued to grow popular among car buyers with its striking line, perfect balance of practicality, versatility and spirited driving. The Subaru Forester, Legacy and Impreza STi so faithful to Subaru's heritage and core technology, are standard equipped with Subaru's patented Horizontally-Opposed (BOXER) engine, and Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive for superb performance and responsible handling. With the Subarus All Winning Deals, clients will have the opportunity to experience Subaru's renowned safety, reliability and unparalleled performance.

The Subaru All Winning Deals is a limited offer for the Impreza STi Hatchback 5/T, and MY2011 Subaru Forester and Legacy models. For more information, visit the Subaru Greenhills showroom and service center located along Edsa, San Juan open from Monday to Sunday where a complete line up of test drive vehicles is also available in all customers. For inquiries and test drive appointments, interested parties may call 727-8333 or visit the company website at www.motorimage.net.

Mitsubishi earns high marks for first quarter

DESPITE the challenges faced by Japanese automakers both here and abroad, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. announced that its Montero Sport continues to lead the country's SUV market.

In the first four months of the year, approximately 4,115 units of the Montero Sport were sold, according to the sales figures released by MMPC.

This figure beefs up the 25,032 units already sold since the SUV's introduction in 2008. It should be remembered that the Montero Sport topped the SUV category in 2009 and 2010.

The Montero Sport's impressive sales performance has been recognized in the Mitsubishi model, having sold 1,378 units in 2008 even it was only introduced in September in the Philippines. The following year, sold 8,693 units and 11,167 in 2010.

Another bestseller model in the MMPC lineup is the Strada pickup. Since its introduction in September 2006, it already sold a total of 15,480 units. The Strada has been the top seller in the 4x4 pickup category in years 2007, 2008 and 2010 when 3,578 units were sold.

MMPC expects the Montero and Strada both Thailand. Both models contribute around 58 percent to MMPC sales.

With all these positive sales figures, MMPC was able to post a 7.4 percent growth—19,945 units sold—in the first four months of the year.

MMPC increased its sales in several industry categories. In the light commercial vehicles category, the company increased by 0.3 percent with 10,208 units sold, and in the trucks segment, its Fuso truck sales also increased by 72 percent.

With 22.6 percent market share, MMPC still remains the second car-largest automotive brand in the country, based on reports from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. and Truck Manufacturers Association.

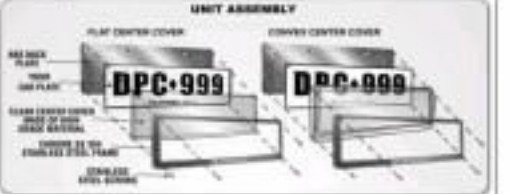
Sales of the Adventure and L300 models, which are both locally produced, were sustained by the summer high-season travel. "Adventure sales increased by 16.4 percent, with sales of 2,469 units while the L300 sales also increased by 21.2 percent with 1,972 units sold," the MMPC said in a statement.

MMPC president and CEO Hidenobuyo Shibata assured that the parts shortage in Japan brought about by the devastating earthquake and tsunami last month has less impact on the company especially for its CBU models such as the Adventure and L300 which comprises 40 percent of MMPC's total sales.

NOTICE AND WARNING

NOTICE is hereby given that the design of this "TRIFLECTOR" "ten plate security server drawn herein is registered in the Intellectual Property Office as a design in the name of PRISMA ENTERPRISES and is also covered by copyright laws of the Philippines. As such owner, it has the sole right to manufacture, distribute, import, sell and offer for sale - the said car plate security cover.

UNIT ASSEMBLY



WARNING is therefore given that PRISMA ENTERPRISES shall be serious in filing the necessary criminal and/or civil action against those entities, individuals or corporations who shall be identified to be infringing any of the rights of PRISMA ENTERPRISES mentioned above in respect of the car plate security cover shown herein.

REWARD of PHP 50,000.00 shall be given to any person that can provide information that would lead to the identification of infringers and/or the location where infringing goods are being stored. Interested parties may send a text message to: 0922-8392841

Attorney Jorge San Diego
Unit 1506 Tytic Venezia
Roxas Santiago St., Cor. Tuwag Ave., D.C
Tel. 332-0000

KIA PICANTO TEST DRIVE IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Spicy Song

KIA'S NEWEST generation of their city car, the Picanto (internally code-named 'SA') was launched to the global motoring media in the exotic destination of Istanbul, Turkey.

The Picanto is a global city car sold in almost all markets where KIA products are sold, from the Americas, Europe and Asia. The trademark Tiger front-end from three siblings: features heavily and dominates the overall look of the new 19-metre.

The name is derived from the French word picant (spicy) and the Italian word canto (song). Thus conceptually a hatchback should come up with excitement as bronco Turkish drivers tried to spoil the fun of a mini city car on a highway romp on the Trans European Motorway (TEM95), but in the end the motoring press were singing high praises for the cute, but highly refined and formidable city car, boasting class, options and a driving feel all grown up but without having lost the spunk of a small, fun and highly maneuverable 4-door hatchback.

KIA's engineer for the Picanto, Small Car Group Up looked down the new car justice. While designed primarily for in-city commuting, the KIA's new chronicle, one of use and comfort, coupled with a very fuel efficient yet very responsive engine makes for a motoring as more crowded city conditions.

SKID MARKS

Boycie Santos

The interior is roomy both fore and aft, the rear luggage space making the competition look like midgets. The 60:40 split backrest allows for versatility in carrying cargo and other people and luggage.

THE WELL-MADE 3-spoke steering wheel resembles popular aftermarket sport and race steering wheels.

THE REAR seats of the Picanto fold flat to the floor.

The driving position is excellent, even tall drivers will not have a hard time getting in and out and the well-made 2-spoke steering wheel resembles popular aftermarket sport and race steering wheels, featuring tilt adjustment and in certain variants, auxiliary controls for the audio system. Steerable variants get a dashboard integrated audio system, whereas basic variants receive a traditional DIN CD-tuner system, with both promising iPOD / MP3 device integration via auxiliary input or through USB connectivity.

The engine is an all-new powerplant, a 1-cylinder sub-1.0 litre engine equipped with variable valve-timing and produces 69hp and 9.4kg/m of torque. It might seem a measly amount, but with closely spaced gear ratios, a responsive throttle and creatively scientific vehicle sheet between 82.84 kilograms from the previous-gen, the new Picanto is surprisingly quick on its feet, accelerates with gusto on traffic, and is small (its reason you can weave through denser moving vehicles with ease, parking will also be easy no doubt.

The suspension is the familiar MacPherson strut front suspension and a coupled twist / torsion beam rear axle and rides on 14" wheels mounting by a diminutive but surprisingly grippy 185/60R14 mm low-profile all-season tyres.

All variants come with front wheel disc brakes and electric or MDPS power steering, with remote operate variants getting rear disc brakes in lieu of the standard drum brake arrangement at the back.

Having previously driven the Picanto on the right-hand in city trials of Lima and was impressed by excellent body control even at moderately high speeds, I was curious to find out if the Picanto had the brains (and more importantly the manners) to steer freely on the famed Trans European Motorway which leaves mainland as it heads to Lisbon, Portugal, covering 5700+ kilometers and 30 countries. While we were only going to sample roughly 300 kilometers of that, it was enough to highlight that the Picanto had the basic minimum of power to sustain speeds of between 120-150km/h while still delivering a highly responsive 14.35 kilometers per litre fuel consumption.

Motorway sedate driving speeds will probably average closer to 200km/liter as our test drive schedule included sweltering twists and turns and crazy MPV drives throughout the highway and getting back to Lima for our departure. In city commuting, points the light-weight give the Picanto the ability to leapfrog ahead of bigger and heavier vehicles, giving it the best shot to win most sleepiest Grand Prix races.

EDITING Santos, overlooking hood of Colombian footwear, beside the new Picanto.

On twisty mountainous roads, the engine and transmission are willing sparring partners as one explores the limits of the diminutive tires and the capabilities of a lightweight chassis combined with a massively underrated engine; you forget the car's overall lack of power and grip and instead find a small car feeling fun in your hands and feet as it tries its best to tackle switchbacks, crossovers, hairpins and the occasional cliff-hanger, decreasing inline bends.

A quick jab of the handbrake helps the Picanto get its tail and go out over so slightly to kill some understeer. Boot the throttle and the rear snaps back in.

The most amazing dynamic aspect is the suspension, offering European car levels of refinement, matched with sportily firm feel that gives tremendous feedback and accuracy, in a market segment where it is commonly more concerned with fuel economy, purchase price and maintenance costs. The Picanto delivers on all fronts.

There will be a 5-speed manual transmission available as well as a quirky 4-speed automatic transmission. A high-equipment level Picanto featuring six airbags, hill-start assist, 4-wheel disc ABS brakes, sliding glass moon-roof, height adjustable driver's seat, keyless go / engine-start button and an engine START/STOP feature to traffic for greater fuel economy will be sold in other markets, but it is unclear at this point if such a variant will ever reach our shores.

With prices starting right around P550,000, KIA has a new city car champion in their stable, available now at all KIA dealerships.

RJ Ocampo

Premium motoring card to pamper Hyundai owners

By Charles E. Bolton

DIGNITARIES AND owners of Hyundai VIP Night event held at the Hotel Arthur Philippine Plaza Manila, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. forged a premium partnership with one of the country's fastest growing financial institutions and credit card issuers.

Together with EastWest Bank, they unveiled the Hyundai MasterCard, the first ever distinctive-based car loyalty program in the country.

Offered through the Geo Hyundai Club, the Hyundai MasterCard enables car customers the advantage to enjoy exclusive and privileges from both financial and automotive worlds, with its wide array of privileges that truly cater to the leisure, travel and lifestyle needs of affluent customers," explained Jr. Inocs Agudo, president and CEO of Hari.

ONLY exclusive deals for holders of this card.

Agudo added that Hyundai MasterCard holders afford no less than a one-of-a-kind motoring experience through globally primed towards and exclusive financial advantages that will set them apart from the ordinary.

Truly, the new Hyundai MasterCard is perfect for those who seek unique and related perks, the most convenient financial schemes and banking services available.

Dubbed as the premium lifestyle motoring credit card, the Hyundai MasterCard was unveiled right after Hari's concerted campaigns to bring its new Sonata, Hyundai's globally renowned mid-size sedan, closer to the premium market.

Under this campaign, customers who purchased the brand new Sonata from March 9 to May 31 and had them financed through the EastWest Bank auto loan were provided with affordable terms that included down payment and monthly amortization.

GRAND Finale of two divas and their daughters singing the Geo Hyundai anthem. Zsa Zsa Padilla and Zia Quizon and Kuh Ledesma and Isabella.

HOST Jo Monson interviews Geo Hyundai Club members.

PADGUEY displaying via-con Hyundai MasterCard as the Geo Hyundai VIP Night are, from left, Patti Villareal, MasterCard Worldwide country manager; Antonio Moncayo, Jr., EastWest Bank president and CEO; Jr. Porta Agudo, president and CEO of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (Hari); Jacqueline Fernandez, EastWest Bank executive vice president and head for consumer lending cluster and Edmund S. Go, Hari chairman.

added clients in nearly every the horizon sedan.

Those who availed EastWest Bank's exclusive auto loan packages for the Hyundai Sonata also enjoyed free one-year comprehensive insurance with acts of God coverage, free three-year Land Transportation Office registration, free chattel mortgage fee and a free Hyundai Sonata speciality items.

Shook up

The new 2.4-liter Sonata is certainly the right model to pair with this credit card as the car certainly shook up the world's mid-size sedan market with its standing look.

Adopting Hyundai's new "fluidic sculpture" design language, the new Sonata is most noticeable for its sloping coupe-like look that has previously only been seen on pricier European models.

The new Sonata's Theta II gasoline engine is also one of the sedan's main attractions as it was made more powerful and efficient than most of its competitors. And with all the safety and comfort features one would only expect from a premium sedan, the new Sonata is certainly an excellent deal.

The new Sonata is the embodiment of value that customers could be sure that years from now holders of the Hyundai MasterCard would only have the Sonata, the only car in their mind.

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

THE FLYING PIG

FREE Appetizer of the Day plus 10% OFF
for a minimum single-receipt dine-in purchase of P1,500.

Rustan's celebrates Italy's 150 years

RUSTAN'S DEPARTMENT Store, Alaxes Specialists, Inc., Boston's Supermarket, and Metrobank, with the Italian Embassy and the Italian Trade Commission, present the 2011 Italian Festival, "Bella Storia! Brasserie! Mediterranée!"

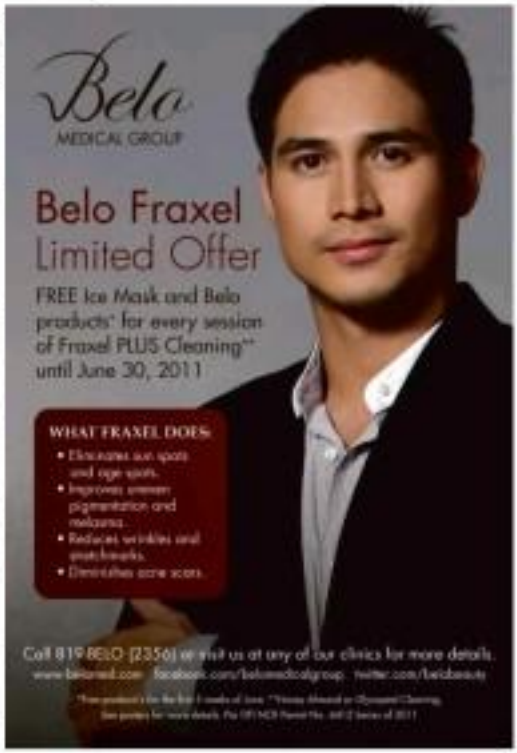
This year, the Italian Festival will be grander than ever as it marks Italy's 150th year of the unification of Italy.

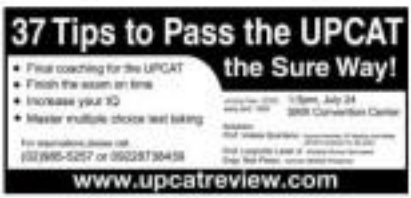
Starting off the festivities, Rustan's hosts an "Italian Festival Opening Night" at Rustan's Makati on June 3. This by-invitation event is inspired by the spirit of the Risorgimento.

Guests will be entertained with a performance from the Bonnie Tarana Dance Group and the Matchbox, while dining at dinner and wine from Italian Stars, Inalco, Inc. and chocolate from Machiavelli Chocolatier.

On June 14, Rustan's and Alaxes Specialists, Inc., will present the "Moda Italia Fashion Show" at Greenbelt 4, 6 p.m. Presenting its latest collections are Salvatore Ferragamo, Prada, Etro, Fendi, Ferragamo, Gucci, Moschino Classics, Acti Armani Exchange, Diesel, Bvlgari, Emilio Pucci, Gianfranco Ferré.

Rustan's has lined up exciting events, promotions and displays for this month-long festival.





GO ORGANIC. Create a relaxing ambiance with Vito Selma's orange sofa and pinewood-and-copper lamp.

COLOR-BLOCKING is an interior design trend. The traditional powder-blue-wingback armchair adds dash to a black, white and glass living room.

BLACK and earth tones ground an all-white room. Vito Selma's Gaia curvy table is a counterpoint to the white leather sofa designed by Kish.

MID-CENTURY meets country living. The elliptical marble-top table with streamlined aluminum dining chairs contrasts with the American walnut veneer cabinet and rustic Pilipinas Shell Seven Seas Gallery from Germany. India and China make a lively table centerpiece.

Ito Kish, in a new location, remains boldly eclectic

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

'Never be afraid to mix things up, because it shows who you are'

WHEN DESIGN consultant-entrepreneur Margarito "Ito" Kish left the "Pen Pen" sign across his then shop, he immediately grabbed the opportunity. That's how the former Bonjit Living on N. Garcia St., Bel-Air 2, Makati, has metamorphosed into the new 450 sq m Kish store, the biggest in its owner's retailing career.

Although it was an ambitious move, Kish's attractive window displays have been luring many walk-in customers. The store offers a signature collection inspired by mid-century modern, wrought-iron, rattan and organic furniture in American white oak, along with Cebuano designer Vito Sel. and forward-looking design, artist pieces. Kish's own designs and accessories sourced globally.

The pieces range from unique religious icons and faded trophies to curious objects featured in foreign magazines. Kish says the botanical print series was used in an ad-vertorial for a UK store. A floral mural mo-tif frame was part of a setting in the cover of House & Garden UK edition, while a lum-inaire cushion clock was in the inside page, and a ceramic lizard shaped Danish lamp was included in 6th magazine.

One of his conversation pieces is a 1920s Marimao boat which hangs from the ceiling hovering over Vietnamese stone jars and juxtaposed with mirrors. When we select, the piece is so beautiful as it is, yet it blends with other elements.

A circumscribed Indian table bed is placed alongside a textured resin side table cast-stool from Pampanga. Modern powder-coated metal chairs are juxtaposed with wood veneer tables.

Kish takes pride in being the sole local distributor of Selma's collection. The Cebuano designer's works are characterized by a three-dimensional network of grids that create stunning forms. Selma uses local materials such as coconut, pinewood, bam-boo and straw in complex assemblages. His works are always used as strong accent pieces in a home, modern setting.

Ultimately, the Kish sensibility is about layering his whole pulling things together.

"Many homemakers collect objects over the years. We impart the idea to never be afraid to mix things up because it shows who you are. Don't just stick to a matching look."

SIZE EMPIRE natural with modern. The ex-ecutive modular sofa is strong suit leather Pasay chair.

SCANDINAVIAN HAZE flower vases with different coverings

TIPS

Here are Kish's tips when going modern eclectic:

- Color blockings is the trend to decor. Add a bold-colored accessories or accent piece in black and white or neutral color scheme.
- Adhere to realistic scale in terms and ranges to unite all the elements together. Objects with beautiful designs won't be overwhelmed by the many colors.
- A medley of surface treatments and textures establish an eclectic look. Kish combines an strong woven sofa and indigenous lamps to contrast a leather and chrome chair. However, all the elements are united by their same chrome shapes.
- Classic decor is safe and can be boring if all the pieces match. Offset the look with modern pieces such an unusual mirror frames, modern lamps and clocks. Even when be-mixed 20s traditional lamps and antiques in a modern setting.
- Displaying unique elements adds appeal to the eclectic look. Keep proportion in mind when composing them.

DON'T be afraid to mix styles, e.g. chic modern paper armchair in Kish's staff along with pagoda-inspired table lamp and Mar Chinese chairs set atop a traditional woven armoire.

PLASTIC deli rack is perfect for compact condo living.

SMOKE LOVE with mahogany finish and honeycomb pattern by Vito Selma

FIN-SCULINE and woven fenestrate, the modern, earth-toned living room set is defined by an organic Vito chair.

Do-it-yourself

D.I.Y.

With Jhoni Barreiro and Marina Lopa

Stylish, space-efficient armoire

Custom-made to house a work station, this 'aparador' delivers

HAVING YOUR own home often means wanting to own so many pieces of beautiful furniture. But if we don't have the luxury of space, we have to think carefully and apply a little space management.

Here is a wonderful DIY idea that can inspire you to work at home.

This particular armoire (aparador) may remind many to house a work station. With its elegant and stylized exterior, the interior contains a host of modern features. The shelves are all adjustable to accommodate various items. The center compartment can hold a computer monitor and is deep enough, leaving ample space so a cpu also be used as a writing desk.

Below, there is a pull out keyboard tray. The bottom shelves can house the CPU unit, a printer or some storage bins. Each of the doors is lined with cork board.

You can begin your work day by opening the doors of your armoire. The efficient organization will surely inspire you to work. After a productive day you can then close the armoire doors and enjoy your wonderfully planned, intelligently decorated room.

DIVIDE and conquer: Each compartment is designed to house specific items, all shelves are adjustable, and the doors are lined with corkboard.

A BEAUTIFULLY crafted armoire reveals itself to be an intelligent piece of furniture.

Innovation, craftmanship, 'wow' factor —Italian home brand makes waves in Manila

'Good seats are Moroso's rice bowl, they are our life skill. We do seats best'

By Joy Roces
Contributor

OFFICIALLY, SHE is the sales director of Moroso Asia Pte Ltd., but to a personal-spacing Stella Chua can't help but feel like a mother to the ultra-modern chairs, tables and sofas that bear the surname of Italian couple Aquilelo and Diana Moroso and their close to 60-year-old furniture company.

Singling out a favorite piece in the impressive collection housed in the Manila flagship store on the corners of ADB Avenue and Garnet Road, Ortigas, is Chua's challenge.

"It is very hard to choose which child is my favorite," she explains, laughing.

Still, when pressed to pick one, Chua, a Singaporean, points to "Smoch," a chair that clearly marches to its own beat and sophistication. A creation of the Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola, the round swivel seat, said to resemble a wine glass when viewed from a distance, is a hybrid—that is, a blend of industrial and traditional furniture making.

Once the chair's frame is assembled by machines, a woman takes over and sews, by hand, the delicate smocking details on the leather upholstery. The process takes a full of four days, but it's worth the wait.

BRIGHT: Made with large stacking armor together, this low chair by Patricia Urquiola catches mood from indoors and outdoors.

MOROSO'S pavilion at the 2011 Salone Internazionale del Mobile showcased prototypes of the company's newest chairs, sofa, and tables in ranges of varying heights.

A STREAMLINED couch with a bit of distortion, Patricia Urquiola's "Gentry" achieves a different drama when upholstered in leather, bronzes or a quilted fabric.

Staying power

Akin to a designer handbag, the iconic "Smoch" is Chua's choice for many reasons.

"It represents an important peak in modern design," she says. "There is also a lot of freedom of expression that goes into it. And, of course, the comfort. When you sit down in a piece that it so well-made, it gives you a different degree of satisfaction."

Innovative yet timeless design, superior craftsmanship and an undeniable "wow" factor explain Moroso's staying power, not only as a premier Italian furniture company, but as a highly anticipated exhibitor of the annual Salone Internazionale del Mobile, the largest and most significant furnishing and design trade fair in the world.

Like the 48 exhibitions before it, Moroso maximized a coveted spot in the 2011 staging of the week-long event, drawing countless visitors into its exclusive pavilion, a 1,000-square-meter space designed no less by Urquiola.

Evoking an intimate setting, this area featured the latest collection on platforms of varying heights, an effect that achieved a sense of movement. Videos projected onto the inner wall, meanwhile, further enhanced the display area, which aimed to strike a balance between real and virtual.

Standing out amid a sea of 2,000 furniture makers, Moroso once again established its point with 15 new introductions and six line prototypes. The items, says Chua, will undergo more fine-tuning before they're ready to be sold.

Midas touch

As expected, Urquiola, or as as Chua calls her, "the goddess with the Midas touch," earned rave reviews for her creations.

Her "Smoch," a woman-friend only with a hint of dominion, offers a different design when upholstered in leather, brocade or a quilt of fabric.

Her "Elliti," meanwhile, employs large stacking wooden cups that can be used as bins and spacious wooden lounge chair that is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use.

Interestingly, Urquiola, as well as French industrial designer Ron Arad, Japanese designer Tsuyoshi Fushiba, Swiss-born industrial and furniture designer Ueli Berger, and others in the the Moroso stable of designers, are encouraged to follow their hearts rather than a general direction every time they're tasked to produce new pieces for the Salone del Mobile.

"She doesn't give us any strict guidelines," says Chua of Patricia Moroso, the founder's daughter and company's creative director. "Creativity and design do not co-exist well restrictions. She gives them a lot of freedom."

"Good seats are Moroso's rice bowl, they are our life skill. We do seats best," declares Chua. "Our customers receive the best quality their money can buy. It is very easy to produce a chair or sofa that does its job. What we like to do is be steps ahead, to come up with something that will make you say, 'Oh my God, this is my dream home. This is my dream chair!'"

Expansion

Apparently, Italians know a dream chair when they sit on one. Moroso has witnessed its biggest clientele to its country of origin, never having to venture beyond its shores to improve its profits. But with its steady growth in the last 15 years, it was only natural to expand. Its flagships in Russia and Germany are its main export markets, while the United States, which is penetrated five years ago, is a challenging but exciting market nonetheless.

Asia welcomed Moroso three years ago, and its first and most important flagship store is in Manila. (A store in Singapore opens in June, and another opens in Kuala Lumpur in July.) For Filipinos, that fact is both an honor and a surprise, given richer and more cosmopolitan countries in the region.

Chua credits Joseph Tey and his wife Stephanie Alcuaz Goyu, who buy by paying the way.

"Looking for partners was not only based on dollars and cents," she explains. "Joseph and Stephanie not only fulfilled all our requirements, they're a very young and dynamic couple, and that makes them very open and universal, very much like Moroso."

Stephanie Tey seems upon the Italian furniture brand during her studies in Europe and the United States. She encountered Moroso again through her mother Sienna, who used the Italian-made pieces to decorate the homes in her buy-and-sell business.

Despite no experience selling furniture (Joseph's family is in canned foods, while Stephanie is involved in the finance aspect of her family's insurance company), the couple jumped at the chance to bring Moroso to Manila, a decision that proved beneficial to the Teys as well as their niche clientele.

Atypical market

"The Philippines is not a typical Asian market by us," notes Chua. "It's very much at par with European cases."

As such, the brand-first mentality that says "elegant yet different," says Joseph. Dutch designer Tjobbe Van Vliet's "Budd," a sofa set upholstered with a fabric bearing playful patterns and fur, is one example of an unconventional piece Moroso sees appeals to Filipino design sensibilities.

Prices are also discriminating to the point that they take as many as five visits to the store before they fully commit. The Teys have also had their share of "quirky" buyers. One wanted to buy the "Smoch"—as the cushion does remain the fabric according to his desired specifications.

"It was very tasteful, but it was still not standard," explains Joseph.

Moroso obliged by researching with Bisi Vliet himself. The designer approved the modified fabric and Dr. Seuss was made.

The Teys also know of at least two luxurious furniture collectors who would come to the store and pick out cooking hue chairs to add to their already impressive hue. Admittedly, it can be a headache for the couple, but a good one to have, while money isn't an issue for these buyers, Joseph and Stephanie have had to break up living and dining sets to accommodate a client.

"Suddenly, a six-seater becomes a five-seater and they have to order one to replace it," Joseph says with a laugh.

If anything, it's a rare sign of Moroso's magic at work—producing furniture that instantly heightens a home's ambiance.

"We make things that come from the heart," says Chua. "People need passion in their lives, and I think we're still one of those out there who are still trying to pursue it/dream."

MARLBORO Classics Men's spring/summer collection 2011

MARLBORO Classics Women's spring/summer collection 2011

FURLA Candy Group

SUPERGA Kids upper in printed canvas, lining in canvas and outsole in natural rubber

TOD'S men's wallet in leather

PINKIA spring/summer collection 2011

Rustan's celebrates Italy's 150 years

From page C1

There will be exquisite Italian coffee lessons with a barista Bulbilia and Coffee Sampling on June 3-5 at Shangri-La Makati.

Coffee and dessert pairing will be taken up in the workshop "Exquisite Italian Coffee Brews and Dessert Pairing" hosted by JC Sierra, featuring Alfredo Annunzio and Tina Rondezzano on June 5 at Shangri-La Plaza.

On June 7 is "The Tradition of Medieval Herbal Love in Florence" through Erica Maria Rovella, where Madame Silvana Novelli Ferrari and Baroness Eleonora de Strobel Foundazione will explain the heritage and products of Santa Maria Novella at Rustan's Makati.

Rustan's crowns the event of Torino, Italy, on June 21 with "Multifunction Lady's Crowning Glory" at Rustan's Makati.

The origins of renowned homegrown label, Asia Kapoor, will be taken up, Storied or "The History of Fragrances" as told by Lord Erik Hamiltonian on June 28 at Rustan's Makati.

On June 30 at Rustan's Makati is "Italian Themed Home Decorating" by Nona Vergara Tanseco, Daphne Osorio Ruiz and Loli Gil Hamalainen.

Rustan's can learn on how to travel with baby the Italian way with Chicco on June 11 at Rustan's Makati, June 18 at Rustan's Alabang, and June 25 at Rustan's Gateway. During the workshop, parents will learn about the brand and how to travel in style.

Finally, every Friday, Saturday and Sunday on June, Rustan's will offer Italian cooking with Delonghi.

Guests are also invited to see the many displays that will be exhibited throughout June such as the Univoo Traveling Exhibit, until June 5 on the ground floor of Greenbelt 5.

Rustan's Supermarket World Weekend Food Trips features renowned chefs in demonstrate their Italian culinary expertise on June 18 at Rustan's Supermarket Shangri-La Plaza, July 2 at Rustan's Supermarket Starbound, and July 9 at Rustan's Supermarket Makati. Beauty's becomes global with "A World of New Flavors at Beauty's" as it offers a special Italian menu from June 15-July 20. Rustan's Trends will offer a variety of Italian products from June 15-July 20.

For this special anniversary, Rustan's given customers the opportunity to sail across Europe's scenic in a Royal Caribbean cruise with "Gems Luxuria."

For every purchase of P5,000 of participating brands, they will get a chance to travel in a Royal Caribbean cruise for two. Metrobank cardholders who participate in the promotion will get a chance to win exclusive prizes. Promo period is June 1-July 3.

SALVATORE Ferragamo

SALVATORE Ferragamo

BOTTEGA Veneta

SALVATORE Ferragamo

ROBERTO Coin Corona ring

ARMANI Exchange

SALVATORE Ferragamo 'A' bag in calf leather and signature logo

BULGARI Diva's and Serpenti watch in pink gold, set with 28 brilliant-cut diamonds

EMILIO Pucci

BOTTEGA Veneta

SUPERGA

ZEGNA Sport

ERMENEGILDO Zegna spring/summer collection 2011

CREATE
your own family unli plan
for only P1,499/month.
SUPER CIRCLE PLAN
FREE UNLI SURFING
Get one month FREE unlimited surfing
for every My Super Circle Plan subscription.

LIFESTYLE Parenting

What benefits does your 'yaya' receive?

By Jurgis Gallogo Yeniseca
Core Status

(Last of two parts)

Keeping our nannies happy is one way to ensure that our precious ones will be treated well, and the perks vary from medical subsidies to movie nights

EXTRAS LIKE gifts, 13th month pay, paid leaves or travel fare are usually hinged on a yaya's tenure, performance, and character.

"If and when there is need to give a little bit more for a job well done, commensurate with her work, initiative to do better, I offer to pay for her monthly subway supply, which will be about P2000-P2500," revealed Gianna, a working mom of two. "Once or twice I gave free cell phone loads. I even bought our yaya with us on a trip abroad, all expenses paid. I am, however, very careful as to when and to what extent I give incentives."

Days off varied from weekly to monthly, with more frequent days off sometimes equating to lower pay. Most from the provinces usually don't avail of days off, since most if not all of their money is remitted to their families back home, and they usually prefer longer paid leaves.

Marketing executive and mom Jean says her son's yaya doesn't really take days off. "So she gets paid vacation for two weeks, twice a year. And, because we like her and are really looking for people to help, we offered to pay for her daughter's college tuition. We are also looking at getting her SSS," she said.

Betsy, a working mom of three, has two yayas who go out twice a month but not at the same time. "I provide their shampoo, soap and toothpaste every month. If they stay for a year, they're entitled to 15 days paid leave and airfare. Both are also entitled to SSS."

A working dad, Paul gives his daughter's yaya 1.5k-month pay plus travel allowance for her yearly vacation, as well as SSS and Philhealth, with the option to take a day off every week.

Lara provides food, toiletries, and fare for her yaya to go home twice a month. "If provincial trip cost, I give their one-way ticket after a year's service, round trip for two years," she said.

"One of our yayas has been with my family for over 17 years," shared Lita, working mom of two. "She started really young, came straight from the province, didn't know much about household work, could not cook, and had to be taught personal hygiene. She now gets P4,500/ a month plus rotatable cash incentives on her birthday, Christmas, or when my sisters and relatives visit from abroad because she's like family to.

Perks

She gets other perks like cell phone, airfare subsidy for going home for vacations and when she comes with us on trips. Her base pay may be low considering her extras but the incentives, plus perks, do make up for it."

On top of a P6,000/month salary, Danesie adds monthly movie night for her yayas with the rest of the household. "We drop them off at Festival Mall and pick them up afterward. On their birthdays, we have food delivered for them," she said. Other employers give movie passes.

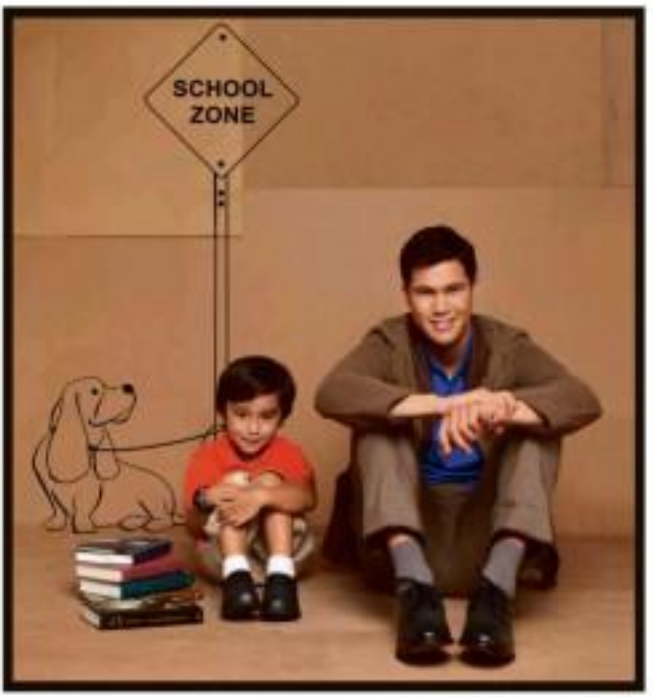
Earl and entrepreneur Fred focused on continuing education by enrolling his daughter's yaya in beauty school. She takes weekly classes at Mentorhaya city hall. "She does hair rebonding jobs on the side, usually on weekends," Fred added.

Most of the respondents offer full in-patient coverage of medical expenses. A usual requirement is a clear X-ray to clear for tuberculosis. Some even cover for their baliga' vitamins, dental and spiritual needs to ensure a healthy worker.

Ryan, under Nanny's employ got an annual flu shot. Gianna's got flu shots, dental visits, generic vitamin C and multivitamins (e.g. for fever, headache, stomach pain). Lita covers her yayas' medical expenses, as needed.

Marites, a working mom of two, provides for her two boys' yaya a PL,200/Healthway card, including annual checkup and unlimited consultations with their family doctor and internist, SSS and Philhealth. "We want to show months into employment," she explained. "We also help our whenever they have medical needs, like when our yaya had an infection and needed antibiotics."

Working mom of one Hannah added, "We have known our yaya for close to 12 years. She has two days off every month. She is more like family to us so I also buy her



Feel the Hush.

Hush Puppies®

ABREEZA • ALABANG TOWN CENTER • EASTWOOD • FESTIVAL MALL • GATEWAY • MALL OF ASIA
MEGAMALL • RESORTS WORLD • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • SM • THE BLOCK • TRINOMA www.hushpuppies.com.ph

HUNGRY FOR SPEED?

DH SISTERS Tessie Sy Coson and Elizabeth Sy

P&L CEO Jaime Bautista

MEQUEL and Hilton Belmonte

PACE Ria Domingo and Dale Yildana

MAKKI Bulos Prieto, bayanan board chair, with Philippine Airlines chair & CEO Lucio Tan, with Carmen and daughter Vivienne Tan

Seventy years of flying high

The Van Hagen brothers bring their art to Manila

SEVEN DECADES have whizzed by and our pal is even shy, Philippine Airlines, has done it again, with a grand celebration during their anniversary show at the Newport Performing Arts Theater in Resorts World Manila, dahlings.

The brilliant brain behind PAL's success, chair Dr. Lucio Tan, welcomed the rest of invitees from all sectors of our society and PAL's loyal passengers, plus top Manilabay Miko members, mantri!

The spectacular show had flashbacks of PAL's last 70 years that had outings for entertainers superstars, such as the organic and handsome Gary Valenciano, ladies' delight and romantic crooner Martin Nievera, and Erik Ledesma, who showed why she is the hardest-working diva when it comes to singing and entertaining.

The was followed by several video snippets of PAL's achievements and progress during the years, until today's modern adventures in the world of travel, pabonggas. Secondhouse, PAL called all business Class jokers to most of the airline's destinations, with the grand prize being a trip to India, PAL's newest destination, dahlings.

Together with lil Lucio his sister Sia wife, charming and all sexy with a friendly smile Tan-mern T, with PAL president and

NEAL Life Foundation's Lynn Moreno

DAVID and Joey Bautista, Gil Yuzon

EVERNAL Sonia, Georgina Padilla-Zobel, Pramila Jacinto

ANA Abad Santos, Cris Albert

COUPLE Albert Reed and Linda Legaspi-Reed

VICKY Zubiri, Chantal's Alex Jamno, Jonathan Crespi, Stephanie Zubiri

TESSIE Lui, Margarita Forés, Sandi Harper

CECILLE Reynoso, Margot Puscol

AT THE Van Hagen and Van Hagen artists visitors enjoying: Alex Van Hagen and (far right) Ilse Van Hagen with Peninsula Manila GM Jonathan Crook, international artist Beny Wonosobo, Dutch Ambassador Robert Brinkman

JOSHIE Dizon, Miss Sandoval

TESSA Prieto-Valdes

JAPE Lim, Mavis and Bert Bautis, Gio Jacinto

DUTCH Ambassador Robert Brinkman, former Dutch Ambassador Thea Arnold

JEM Sison, BPI's Dei Espiritu

KAREN Batchar, Eddy Hartmann

STEPHANIE and Joseph Tay

BAYE Cinco and husband Hon. Freddie Tinga, PAL's Ric Junio

MARIBEN Miles Hidden Mike Antonio Garcia and son Karlin Garcia

GRACE Ease

SM'S Christine Bautista, Secretary Cesar Purisima of Department of Finance

JOJO Zubiri, PAL's Silver Galindez

THE INVISIBLE movie star awardee Al Ando to Alex gives an oooh.

CITIBANK'S Sergio Zunaro and wife Carina

CITIBANK'S Ramil Lim and Nikki Alen

DUTCH Ambassador Robert Brinkman, former Dutch Ambassador Thea Arnold

JEM Sison, BPI's Dei Espiritu

KAREN Batchar, Eddy Hartmann

STEPHANIE and Joseph Tay

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnaldo

Photos by Alex Van Hagen
presented by **HANS MAC cream**

mega-hollywood CEO, and then senior Janine Bautista. PAL operations and executive vice president for Commercial Group, Vicente Tan, welcomed the guests with her short speech, which gave us some info on PAL's future plans, emphasizing PAL's 70th anniversary hope and slogan, "Rule's first, flying 2nd."

The airline's anniversary event was an evening of memories, music, friendship, and the beginning of tons of new, exciting things to come from our very own flag carrier, Philippine Airlines, dahlings.

The brothers Van Hagen and their art

Manila's art and society circle was treated to a spectacular display of Dutch art at its finest, when Dutch brothers Alex and Ilse Van Hagen held their much-awaited exhibit "Van Hagen's Van Hagen: Brothers in Art Part 3," showcasing stunning photographs and exquisite copper sculptures.

The Gallery of the Peninsula Manila was packed elbow to elbow with invitees eager to get a look at the exhibit and add to their personal gallery, dahlings. Presented by the renowned Filo brand, with first couple Imelda and Cara Alberto, the exhibit of Artful Duo gave an exciting glimpse into the duo's creativity and passion for the arts.

A statement in practically all of our events high-profile social gatherings and fund-raisers, Alex is a much-respected photographer who beautifully captures the faces and memories of each glamorous event. In this exhibit, Alex outdid himself by turning his lens away from the famous personalities and treat-star events, to bustling marketplaces and still life that were captured from his travels all over Europe and the Philippines, encouraging viewers "that being environment-friendly is a must for everyone who cares for our home planet — Earth," Alex explained.

On the other hand, Ilse Van

showed everyone why he is one of Europe's top 20 contemporary masters of copper etching, dahlings. No wonder he is one of the founders of The Etch Club of The Hague, Ilse, who was educated at the prestigious Royal Academy for Arts and Design in The Hague, showcased his awesome copper etchings which included diverse subjects, from birds, cows and sheep to architecture and history.

Apart the usual raves to own an original piece from the artistic Van Hagen brothers, it was time to socialize with the chilled bubbly Moët & Chandon in hand and congratulate the artists for their almost sold-out exhibit, palusong-palusong pa.

A portion of the proceeds was for the benefit of Bread Life Foundation, one of the humanitarian projects Alex/Ilse is dedicated to, palusong-palusong.

"Van Hagen & Van Hagen: Brothers in Art Part 3" was impeccably presented by major sponsor Filo and co-sponsors The Peninsula Manila, Rémy Martin, Moët Hennessy, Stoli Medical Group, Smeb, Oil, Subic, KLM and Philippine Tatler, in cooperation with Mones, FOTOnation, Finito & Pesino, Chantal, Moët & Chandon and Power Mac Center.

The comedienne and the 'Colony's Man'

Comedienne extraordinaire and anointed Box Office Queen & Ai Ai de las Alas brings her unique wittiness to the upscale Doubletaxone suits a trio once-a-month performance, titled "Limited Laughter," on Friday, June 3.

Will Ai Ai slug it out with our town's "crème de la crème" and outshine everyone with her shocking and irreverent bahrots antics? Will she spare us any from her vitality? And, will the girl flirty and let out a cougary roar while she steals the hearts of dashing guys?

Well, for the answers, check her out live, palusongan, at Salud Advocacy Cocktails are served at 7 p.m. and show starts 7:30 p.m., brought to us by the Ilona Constitution and Mong Isaac. See you there, dahlings.

For info and tickets, do call tel. 09.18.689.2128.

Meanwhile, we just, whom I characterized "The Colony's Man," Georgie Stones, is on 2FM every Thursday on the festive man of the hosts Ramon Tulfo's "TNT," from 5 to 6 p.m. as the popular station Radio Inquirer, 990AM, dahlings. George will be talking about "the many wonderful things that life can be when handled positively and with optimism. Health, money, wonderful relationships and success can all be yours," he explained to me.

Check it out, palusongan, you'll get lots of answers from George Stones, no less.

GET IT WITH YOUR BROADBAND.

What benefits does your 'yaya' receive?

From page D1

medicines for hypertension and diabetes, which is about P1,500/month."

Some respondents entered small loans to their yayas, for buying a cell phone, for instance. Others yayas rented space that other yayas offered. And, as entrepreneurs and father of a five-year-old, grants each advance and loans to his yaya, who now gets P5,000/month on top of weekly days off and a one-month bonus.

"We allow them to advance salary for emergency cases but limit it to the amount of their monthly wage, and then deduct P500 per payday," added Marvin.

Lita shared, "Typically, they would ask for their one to two months' salary in advance, part to be sent for their family and part to help them get married."

As I now go through my screening process, I am learning about yayas' expectations, as well. Those from the provincial with contacts in Manila more or less know their worth and have an asking price, which is usually negotiable. Those with plans of applying as domestic helpers abroad tend to be better educated (college level). I was shocked to learn[illegible] and even more so to hear some yayas not be able to read or write.

Exploited

Some are sadly exploited, with tasks continually added to their list of responsibilities with no additional pay or help. Should they ask to leave, their salaries are unfairly withheld until their employers find suitable replacement.

One lady I interviewed vowed to leave her employer because she was working as an all-around maid for the family of five plus their in-laws next door, plus a newborn baby for only P3,500/month.

What are yayas expected to do, exactly? Some employers have their yayas basic six-foot habitus only, just like if executive and member of team basis, whose yaya is accountable for everything regarding the baby including washing and ironing baby stuff and food preparation.

Since most of our Lyas works full time, "I leave the yaya lesson plans" for my son, so she makes sure to go through them with him," she said. "I have her because she's very intelligent."

Gianna added, "Our yaya primarily takes care of and plays with my son, guides my daughter and plays with her, does the laundry and ironing of the children's clothes, cleans the child, drinks boosts and toys, like speaks very good English and educational because she back-up took when my dad, my husband, or I don't have time to cook."

Taking on such extra tasks does not necessarily mean more pay. For Lara, each of her yayas takes care of two kids and chores in the household. "I do not have separate household help," she said.

In Elaiza's case, her yaya takes care of her seven-month-old, washes his clothes, cooks his food, and cleans his bottles. "She also cleans the house when she can and washes the dishes. Sometimes we tell her to cook rice and pork," the working mother of two added.

Real and tangible, both working dads of one, also have their yayas do some housework.

The yaya's extra responsibilities could also be related to how old the children are. Shared Mia, entrepreneur mom of two: "I used to have two yayas, one for each kid when they were smaller. When the boys got older, I had a yaya and an assistant also. Now we just have one yaya, and our other helper is the one who assists the yaya since the boys are more independent now."

Hannah is equipping her son's yaya with an additional skill in line with her additional role. "I am about to put her through driving school because I would rather she drove my son to and from school rather than employ a full-time driver," she said. "I'm thinking of just getting her an assistant yaya when I eventually 'upskill' her to become a driver." This is a great idea, since a driver usually costs us much more.

From this little research I learned what we have to be flexible in our offerings, since yayas have different goals and needs. Being sensitive to them can only bring about better experiences for everyone concerned.

Keeping our nannies happy is one way to ensure that our precious ones will be treated well. When drawing up her salary plus benefits package, let's keep in mind that we are buying not only a caregiver's stand-in for our parental presence, but also our peace of mind.

What's Up

PEN holds literature teaching workshop at University of Cebu

THE PHILIPPINE Center of International PEN (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Novelists) will hold "For Lovers of the Word: Workshops on Teaching Philippine Literature in High School and College" on June 9, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., at University of Cebu's Audio Visual Room (AVR) 1, UC–Banilad Campus, Cebu City. PEN authors Dr. Marjorie Evasco, John Bengan and Dr. Anthony Tan will serve as facilitators.

This project is part of the series of teaching literature workshops organized by PEN to selected regions in the Philippines this year. It is geared toward refreshing and upgrading the skills of literature teachers in both secondary and tertiary levels.

The first workshops were held on March 26 at Far Eastern University–Manila and May 6 at University of San Agustin–Iloilo, respectively.

This workshop is co-sponsored by the University of Cebu, and supported by PEN International in UK, and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

For inquiries, call Philippine PEN at 301-0944 and 301-0945, 427 Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila, tel. 5230915; telefax 5240208; 0917-4230185; e-mail philpen@philpenwriters.net; visit http://philpenwriters.co.cc/ for updates.

John Robert Powers to hold 'Elements of Fame' summer showcase

"Elements of Fame" is the theme of John Robert Powers' summer showcase set June 4, 6 p.m., at the Cebu P. Fernidiz Auditorium, FEBTC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City.

Since 2004, John Robert Powers, the leading provider of personality development programs in the Philippines and in many Asian countries, has staged 13 shows that featured the skills and talents of its students in stage and video acting, hosting, singing, dancing, fashion photo shoots and runway modeling. PTC channel's media partner of this year's event. Sponsors are Baby Flo and Kool Fever from Pelagus Corp.

"Elements of Fame" will showcase the various talents of JRP's students woven in one magical, fantasy story. This year's summer showcase involves the following directors and assistant directors: Bingbing Edozen and Ingrid Mario, singing; Lio Prince and Kaye Embalsis, dancing; Ning Cornista and Raymond Reidy, fashion photo shoot and runway modeling; Raymond Recio and Kevin Dugan, video acting; and Mara Nava and Nick Lillon-Kalinda, hosting. Joel Trinidad penned the script for the show, "Elementals," and Lio Prince designed the stage while Sonny Camacho of digitalphotostate supplied all the photo print and video production requirements of the event.

Art exhibit

"Absence," new paintings and exhibition by Meiks Jaurena, Melati Sarmiento, Bru Camacho and Pascual de Loyola, opens June 4 in Manila Contemporary, Whittington, Makati. It runs until June 26. The event is part of Manila Contemporary's Performance Art Residency project (May–June) with Indonesian artists Jeannie and Suryodarmo and local artists Camacho and De Loyola.

At last, Manila will enforce smoking ban

MANILANS CAN breathe easy just a sigh of relief but air that is a little cleaner than usual—hopefully.

Mayor Alfredo Lim has ordered full and strict enforcement of anti-smoking regulations, starting with City Hall.

For years, smokers seemed to think Manila was the metropolis' smoking area, everybody lighting a cigarette as soon as they entered the city. Now, hopefully, they will follow the anti-smoking law in the capital city just as they do in other parts of the world.

The heated-up campaign could not have been more timely. The World Health Organization (WHO) has renewed its appeal to governments to pass and enforce laws that will prevent premature deaths from tobacco-related diseases.

WHO said smoking killed nearly six million people worldwide each year, mostly from heart disease, stroke, cancer and emphysema. Passive or second-hand exposure to tobacco killed some 600,000 more.

Double parking

After strengthening the anti-smoking campaign, perhaps Lim can turn his attention next to double parking in most streets of the city. Commuters are put at risk every day by having to get on or off passenger vehicles in the middle of the street since both sides of Manila roads have been turned into garages. And, of course, traffic is stalled when public utility vehicles stop in the middle of the road.

The mayor can also resume his campaign against pedicabs, tricycles and kalesa. It is not just that many are operating illegally but they also openly violate traffic rules and even behave like they own the roads, opposing other motorists to give them right of way.

Their argument that they should be allowed because at least they are not contributing a crime is flawed. If they operate without permits and violate traffic laws, then what they are doing is illegal. Crime is not just murder or robbery.

Misdirected

Maestro D. Gallardo suggests that the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company shift to a computerized online telephone directory system, instead of the existing operator-assisted information service.

"I would spare the hapless customer endless aggravation and hours of frustration, waiting for a so-called Customer Service Representative to become available," she says.

Gallardo says the four-volume telephone directory is almost unusable.

"It's like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack. Either I am dumb, blind or both, or these directories have been deliberately designed to jow confusion and earn additional revenues for PLDT from phoned-in inquiries," she says.

Gallardo says she has yet to make one single connection using the phone books. On the other hand, ringing up the operator for assistance not only means paying a fee but also a long wait despite sentences from a recorded message that "your call is important to us."

The last straw for Gallardo is the fact that the office of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Mandaluyong City "or the number of any Bureau of Internal Revenue office" is not in the phone books. When she asked the operator she was told some customers requested unlisted numbers.

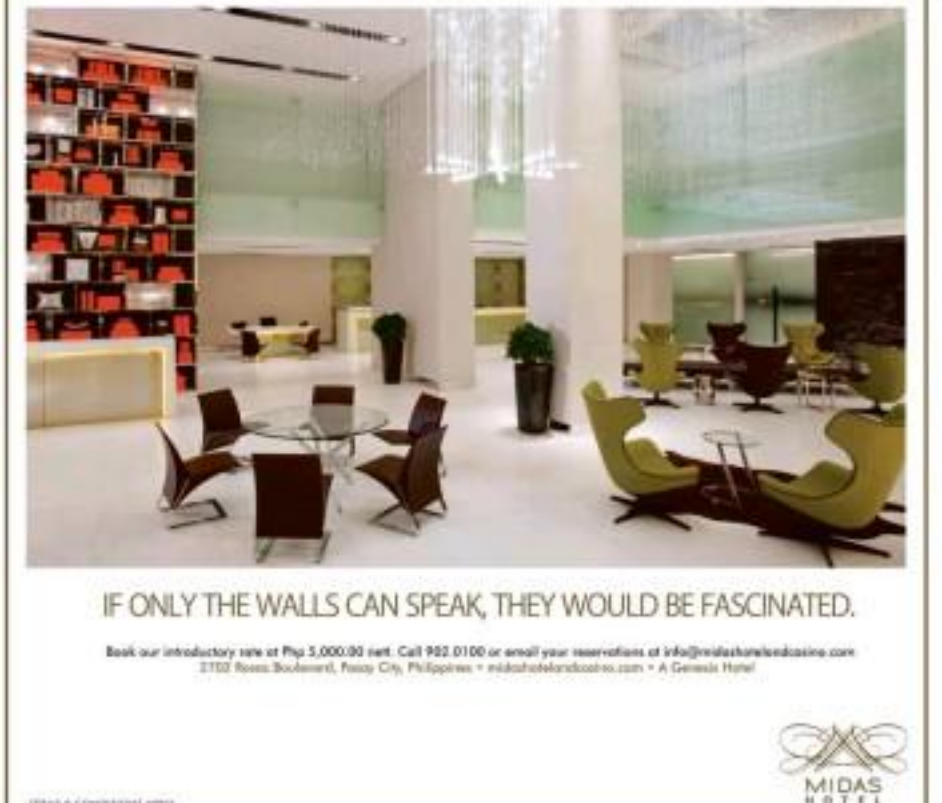
This is, indeed, strange and can only happen in the Philippines...a government agency with an unlisted number. Isn't it supposed to make itself available to the public, especially since that public, made up of taxpayers, pays for its existence?

This is more than just a problem for PLDT. This is a problem that somebody in President Aquino's administration should look into.

Gallardo suggests that PLDT be fined in the amount of it doing away with the not so-helpful phone books.

Send letters to The Consumer, c/oLinda Ikeno Philippine Daily Inquirer 1300 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makati-do and Sigue Sts., 1204 Makati; fax 8974550/59; or e-mail lbik-do@inquirer.com.ph

THE CONSUMER
Linda R. Bolido



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

'Hangover' soaks it up

LOS ANGELES—"The Hangover Part II" soaked up $80.1M at the US box office last weekend, the biggest comedy film debut ever. With big numbers for "Kung Fu Panda 2" and the second week of "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," the top 12 films brought in $216.4 million. "Hangover" beat "The Simpsons Movie" (2007) and "Sex and the City" (2008) to become the biggest comedy and biggest R-rated film ever. (Reuters)

Daboy's son celebrates Lolo Yoyong's legacy

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Young actor Rap Fernandez was excited to watch "Virgin as Lolas," a family drama by his grandfather, the late great filmmaker Gregorio Fernandez.

In spite of Typhoon "Chedeng," Rap attended the Sinag Pambansa, where "Hip 3" was screened at Robinsons Starmills in this capital town of Pampanga.

It was important for him to join the Pampanga leg of the national festival, he said, because his grandfather was born in nearby Lubao. The 1953 film was produced by LEN Features and top-billed a Pampanga horse opera, Rogelio de la Rosa, and leading lady Emma Alegre.

Significant

Described by festival organizer Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) as a "significant film from the 23rd Golden Age of Philippine cinema," "Virgin as Lolas" was box office, director and actor in the Asian Film Festival in 1956.

Rap, who had seen a DVD copy of the film at home, watched it on the big screen for the first time at the Sinag Pambansa.

It seems the young actor wants to follow in the footsteps of his dads, an actor turned director.

Rap, son of award-win...

JUMP TO E2

ROOMS for as low as P2,800+ on single/double occupancy
Rainy Days special
Elip Garden Hotel
Phone toll Tel. No.: 889-1111

INSIDE

Alas, it's love over money for pretty starlet
Rushes /E6

SUMMIT RIDGE
Treat Super Dad to a Super Weekend!
Daddy's to do list:
Hurry, look now!

visit: www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA

add us on facebook

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Catch it at

You may also buy your movie tickets online via SM Cinema's Cinemabilis.

Movie tickets delivered to your mobile phone, only through www.smcinema.com

PROMO

IMAX VISA

Get a free popcorn for every IMAX ticket purchase of Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" using your VISA Debit or Credit Card

metro manila

luzon

visayas • mindanao

HOTLINE: 470.22.22 / WEBSITE: www.smcinema.com

VISIT www.smcinema.com AND PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE.
PAYMENT VIA HOME CREDIT AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED.

OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

For ticket reservations and screening schedule pls. visit: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Like us on facebook

Follow us on

GALLERIA

MANILA

METRO EAST

NOVALICHES

FORUM ROBINSONS

BUY YOUR X-MEN FIRST CLASS TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

Starting May 25 tickets are available at the following branches: GALLERIA, MANILA, METRO EAST and FORUM ROBINSONS

You may also buy your tickets online. Log on to www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

In cinemas JUNE 3 MOVIEWORLD

STA. ROSA

LIPA

DASMARIÑAS

STARMILLS

IMUS

ANGELES

TACLOBAN

DUMAGUETE

BACOLOD

ILOILO

GENSAN

ILOCOS NORTE

ALBUM TOUR

SHAMROCK

June 3, 5pm
Robinsons Place Dasmariñas

ALBUM TOUR

Ryan Bang

June 3, 5pm
Robinsons Angeles

OPENING THIS WEEK

Insidious

Directed by James Wan; stars Patrick Wilson, Rose Byrne, Barbara Hershey, Andrew Astor, Ty Simpkins, Angus Sampson, Lin Shaye

Parents is harassed by ghosts as son (Simpkins) falls into a coma. Financial Times' Ian Nathan wrote: "In colossal silliness makes it both tempting and unputdownable." London's Derek Malcolm called it "a bagful of giggles ... thinly-spun."

X-Men: First Class

Directed by Matthew Vaughn; stars James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Rose Byrne, January Jones, Kevin Bacon, Nicholas Hoult

Origins of a saga shows true mutant coming to terms with their powers and society's attitudes. Time Out's Tom Huddleston says it's "delightfully unwilling ... but far fans [it] delivers with aplomb." Opens Thursday.

Paul

Directed by Gregg Mottola; stars Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Seth Rogen, Sigourney Weaver, Jason Bateman, Kristen Wiig, Bill Hader

Nerds (Pegg, Frost) visit Roswell and Area 51 where they meet a party-mouthed outsider (animal (Rogen). Stalling Alister Heaf Timeout calls it "a bagful of giggles ... thinly-spun."

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
2: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
3: KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
4: DYLAN DOG
5: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
6: KUNG FU PANDA 2
7: PAUL

GREENBELT 1

1: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2

GREENBELT 2

1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2
3: FAST FIVE
4: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
5: PAUL

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
3: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
4: FAST FIVE
5: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
3: KUNG FU PANDA 2
4: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS / IN THE NAME OF LOVE

MARQUEE

1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
3: ARTHUR
4: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

MARKET! MARKET!

1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: DYLAN DOG
3: KUNG FU PANDA 2
4: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
5: INSIDIOUS
6: PAUL
7: IN THE NAME OF LOVE

TRINOMA

1: DYLAN DOG
2: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
3: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
4: KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
5: FAST FIVE
6: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
7: KUNG FU PANDA 2

ABREEZA

1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2
3: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES
4: PAUL

For ticket reservations or purchases,* text SureSeats to 2910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com

Movie schedules may change without prior notice.

For verification, please call 729-7777.

*Reservations open to all SureSeats users. Purchases open for BPI/Bancnet cardholders only.

MOVIE SPECIAL

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

X-MEN
FIRST CLASS

OPENS JUNE 8 at AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Ventanilla Ecotour
June 1-5, Glorietta Activity Center

GREENBELT
Father's Day Treasures at Greenbelt
June 19 - July 1

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
Art Fair Philippines
June 4, Apac Residences High Street

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Fiesta Fun, Food and Live
June 3-5, Alabang Bo

AYALA CENTER CEBU
CBDII Opening Date, Cebu Business Park rules all with restaurant series, Viva Mondays, June 1, 6pm, The Terraces

MARKET! MARKET!
Intramuros Weekend Fridays (10% discount privilege)
June 10, Fort Antipolo

TRINOMA
Underwater Garden Encounters
June 1-5, Level 1 and sixth floor Trinoma

MARQUEE
Off Shop Launches with Daily Indulgence
June 1, 10am
Activity Corners

ABREEZA
Book Conquering Sundays
Our Many Ma-Ama Shop
For bookings & enquiries, please call
Plus 7997 no ext

MALL SPECIAL

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Bonifacio High Street · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Market! Market! · Trinoma · Marquee · Abreeza

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2948

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIH BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PH_LOGOS

DICK TRACY

LOVE SHOTS BY ELIZABETH HOMONGLO

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE BY PAWA ABRERA

SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG BY MARK COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DIANE

YOU BORN TODAY Many of you are quite vain. You have style. You're also loyal, and you are a shrewd judge of character. You're very conditional a can-do. Many of you love romance and workouts. You have good money sense. This year, a major change might take place, perhaps involving a significant relationship. Most successful around 1987. **Birthdays of** Bonita Mosca, actress; Hank Aaron, baseball's best; Morgan Freeman, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Today's New Moon is a great opportunity to think about how to communicate to siblings, neighbors, relatives and daily contacts. Do you stay in touch?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You like to be on top of your finances. Consult an expert. What can you do to add money or extend an allowance now?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Today the only New Moon in Gemini of your a retrospective. New conditions need to be explored. Just decide how you can make a better impression on others.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't you just love your home? Consider a New Moon that encourages you to think about how to make it more comfortable and loving. This is an ideal day to think about these things.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Are you happy with the friends you have? The New Moon today in the perfect time to think about how you can improve your social life. Are you challenging and participating in the kinds of activities you enjoy?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) What is your attitude on an important? Do you decide? Are you cooperative? Think about how you can make your life easier by relating to authority figures in the coming months.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Reflective learning is exciting with empower your life to enrich your world? Is there something you would learn that would enhance your life? Consider the New Moon today as a time to start thinking about how to widen your field and how to feed your the appetite of others. Do you rely on others, or do you feel you are independent?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The only New Moon opposite your sign all year is retrospective today. This is an excellent time to evaluate how you've been doing. Are you making your relationships work?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) What can you do to improve your job, or to figure out how to do a better job or even change your attitude to your job? Clients appreciate subtle improvement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) At work and at any duties and routines rich. What kind of balance do you have in your life between pleasure and work responsibility?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You might be the best time all year to think about how you can improve your family relationships. How can you make your home a happy refuge?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	5	7	6	2	8	3	1
7	6	3	1	8	9	4	5	2
1	8	2	4	5	3	7	9	6
6	4	1	9	7	5	3	2	8
8	3	9	2	1	4	6	7	5
5	2	7	6	3	8	1	4	9
3	1	6	5	4	7	9	8	2
2	5	4	8	9	1	2	6	3
9	7	8	3	2	6	5	1	4

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

				8				
	6		7		1		3	
		4				9		
			5		2			
6			1	9	4		8	7
7	5			3		2	1	
	1	5		6	3	4		
			8	2				
				1				

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Chocolate-covered ice cream on a stick
5. Actress Ingrid
10. Fight off a charge in court
14. Ms. Fitz of jazz
15. Flight of a mortal in myths
16. Ms. Gabor
17. Tennis star Ivanovic
18. Tennis star Ivanovic
19. Tennis star Ivanovic
20. Beginning
21. Pitcher's stat
22. Tennis star Ivanovic
23. Tennis star Ivanovic
24. Tennis star Ivanovic
25. Tennis star Ivanovic
26. Tennis star Ivanovic
27. Tennis star Ivanovic
28. Tennis star Ivanovic
29. Tennis star Ivanovic
30. Tennis star Ivanovic
31. Tennis star Ivanovic

Daboy's son . . . from page E1

ning actress Lorna Tolentino and the late actress Rio Rudy Fernandez, directed a short film, "Burlesque," starring Ping Medina, when he was in school seven years ago.

Thesis on 'Ishi'

His college thesis was on his grandfather, too. (Rap graduated with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, major in Communication and Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University.)

"For the thesis," he told Inquirer, "I interviewed actors my tito had directed—Joseph Estrada, Caridad Sanchez and Stella Stevens." The stars recalled Dad Gregorio, a former director who was finally called Ramon in the 80s, was stiff and wouldn't try to shout at Dante to elicit their best performances.

Apart from "Bigfil," Rap watched other Fernando films like "Mahirawan" and "Kontrabandido," to finish his thesis. In "Bigfil" and "Kontrabandido," the director had made cameo appearances. "I never met him," said Rap. "He died long before I was born. But watching him talk and move on screen was like seeing an apparition."

Cautiously enthusiast

Rap said his father had told him that his lolo loved cockfighting like most Pampanguenos. "Whenever Lolo won, he would share his winnings with friends," Rap added. "He would invite total strangers to eat in his house, too."

The FDCP should be commended, the young Fernandez said, for "introducing classic films to younger audiences."

Rap, who made his acting debut in the ABS-CBN series "Bahaw Jack" late January, has taken the initiative of building a mini-archive of Rudy's films. "We have only 60 of his 120 films," Rap said. "We are looking for a non-pirate copy of Bitoy's Only Ams."

He has moved "digitizing" his dad's movies on the computer. "But I've also made backup copies so far safe," Rap said.

E-mail: dayanmarabago@hotmail.com

Love... from page E6

an end to efforts, in Austin.

The native Spanish speaker, who also has global hits in English, was speaking at a news conference in Morocco, where she was headlining the Mawazine World Rhythms music festival. "I am completely open to that experience," she said. AP

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's TV gabfests (and why we are moved, I are we moved):

• Dennis Trillo sa on girlfriend Jennylyn Mercado's revelation regarding their breakup: "Mas mabuti siguro huwag na lang mag-comment. Maiintindihan naman yung gusto ko para mauna sabihin niya." (Better to say nothing, huh?)

• Richard Reynes on coping with his breakup with Ms. Marjorie: "Wala ang chikaan ng 'ya si Lord na 'di mo kakayanin . . . I really am very, very positive." (Nuh-uh. Is say, huh?)

• Marian Rivera, asked if she could become a slave in love: "Kung kaya pa dun sa mga maganda objects ng pagmamahal na 'yun, bakit hindi?" (Who are you, and what have you done to Marian Rivera?)

• Iza Menzon on the recent outing of controversies involving her: "Whatever happens, kahit gaano niya ka-dagmal, siguro kaya nga ako narriyan ng Diamondrock," eh." (Arrogant?)

• Randolph on his/her (Dolphy's) possible marriage to Zsa Zsa Padilla: "Sa, akon lang lo kat meron ka na, meron na lang wala. Siyam pa nga ako, eh. Kaya hatchet ka na man?" (Do we hear Pidol laughing?)

• Melissa Ricks admits breakup with Jake Cuenca: "Napagusapan na ako na nakaw nung mga sa camera . . . Maybe we have a different set of priorities. He made me happy for two years, pero I think nagaging dun sa long 'yun." (Marriage data point.)

• Lindsay Pangan on why she declined to guest on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show": "English 'yun eh. Ayaw ng mommy ko. Ayaw niya ng nakikita ako sa TV, nagsasalita ng ibang wika. Ayaw niya ako sa Hollywood. Ayaw niya ng ganun." (Mother knows best.)

• Lindsay Pangan on why she declined to guest on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show": "English 'yun eh. Ayaw ng mommy ko. Ayaw niya ng nakikita ako sa TV, nagsasalita ng ibang wika. Ayaw niya ako sa Hollywood. Ayaw niya ng ganun." (Mother knows best.)

(Starbelle, Jessica Soho, Ahmelia Cervantes, Ellen DeGeneres Show)

Across from MAGA 3 • rwmanila.com

Love over money for pretty starlet

By the Entertainment staff

BEFORE critics could tame a lion about the improbable plot twists in a recent film, it turned out that the exact same things happened in real life.

Perry Stefanides dumped Rich Piatkanet, a fine rising politician, and rushed to the arms of Hardy Boyfriend, a dancer by profession.

It's the stuff classic romance flicks are made of, but yes, the girl chose love over money.

No acting at all

Beautiful Stefanides impressed not a few observers by playing a mean girl in a high-profile project.

BY wasn't acting at all. Sharing a provincial roots, fans wanted to have their photos taken with BK, who led in the drinking team and was overheard saying: "Make them wait till they turn pale."

Wide and neck

Drama star is to holding. Of gained considerable weight and is unable to lose extra. Pics the weight gain due to her shaky personal life? (She left her longtime love for a rich new boyfriend.)

Or did she just put on weight after completing a stint in rehab, as her detractors incessantly claim?

More trouble

BOOTH—The ex-husband of Arnold Schwarzenegger's lover told a Colombian magazine Sunday he plans to sue the ex-governor because the birth certificate of the couple's love child was falsified.

Brigitte Barrea, a Colombian native, was married to Mildred Patricia Barrea, former bounce keeper to Hollywood star turned California governor Schwarzenegger and wife Maria Shriver.

Barrea only recently learned that his 13-year-old son with Mildred was actually her love child with Schwarzenegger.

Yet Barrea's name appears on the birth certificate as the boy's father, and attorneys have told him that if Schwarzenegger and Mildred know this was not true, they engaged in conspiracy to falsify a public document—a serious crime in California.

The Barreas separated after 10 years of marriage in October 2007, just weeks after the boy was born. The couple did not file for divorce until February 2008, according to US entertainment media. AFP

Back to rehab

LOS ANGELES—Troubled British singer Amy Winehouse is heading back to rehab, her spokesperson said on Friday.

The Grammy-winning Winehouse, 27, reportedly lost Maria's her 2006 hit "Rehab," shocked herself into a DK clinic on Wednesday prior to playing several summer dates in Europe and Hong Kong June 10.

"Amy wants to be ready for the performances and doesn't to work on assessment," her publicist Tracey Miller said in a statement. Reuters

Arabic pop

DUBAI, Morocco—Colombian pop singer Shakira said Saturday she would use any day like to sing pop songs, if we

LINE 05

John's word vs onlookers

ONLOOKERS who were at the studio taxis that John Estrada his date Meghanne, first director of MEG CHO's "Hippo, Yippee, Yehey."

John said no a relationship (MG: "I did not hit Alex. I hit the wall. I did that because because si Alex ang timang matandang lasa ko na amyak si akin. Di ko pwede palitan pasan yun. Pinakita ako ng mga magulang ko na dapat respetuhin ang matatanda. ding ang pagpawalis si matanda e dasalawan, okay na sigurong makakatan ako.")

Hopefully, John and Alex will be able to iron out the kinks soon, so they can live up to the title of their show, over-all-can.

Wedding to watch

Now that the petition for the annulment of Zaenna Shaddiki's marriage to DK Shaleena Tadlonghaut has been granted, will the finally tied her Wag-Isang Ulan," (the thing of comedy Dolphy)? That would be the wedding to-end all weddings!

Mo hic hard by split-up

DJ Mo was absent from his radio show "Good Vibes" and the TV program "Juicy Express" for a few days. He also took a break from his podcast. He's still in a state of mourning after his split-up from Rhian Ramos.

"It's hard as personal to be jolly and to entertain people when you're feeling down," he says. "I'm off to Paris again to continue my healing process." Change of scenery, change of heart.

Korina's celebrity bazaar

Korina Sanchez-Roxas will have a celebrity bazaar sale of her stuff and clothes of some of her friends from the industry at the Greenbelan Food court on June 3-5. Proceeds will go to charity-based Kilos Kwentuguwe.

Pops, concert producer

Pops Fernandez is producing Ai Ai de las Alas' gig on June 3 at the Bobbleblend. The first.

For feedback, e-mail wazzup.dolandang@yahoo.com